

ARGAIN HO
ay August 9 1978
pen pence

adat-Begin summit at Camp David next month

...an attempt to revive the Middle East initiative launched last year by President ... will be made on September 5 at a summit ... in the United States between the ... leader and Mr Begin, the Israeli Prime ... Their meeting will take place at Camp ... resident Carter's retreat in Maryland.

Mr Carter gambles on breakthrough

...d Cross ... August ... the East summit: con- ... between President ... Egypt and Mr ... Begin, the Israeli ... nister, will be held ... David, President ... Maryland retreat, on ... the White House ... today. ... pose of the meeting ... discover whether the ... tive launched by ... Sadat last year can ... statement read by ... Powell, the White ... kman, at a hastily ... press briefing here ... ing said that Mr ... pleased to announce ... two leaders had ... in invitation to go to ... to seek a ... peace agreement. ... ation was conveyed ... ent Sadat and Mr ... Mr Cyrus Vance, the ... of State, who was ... cluding a new round ... in Jerusalem, and ... a. He had delivered ... written invitations ... settings with the two ... cratic leader of the Upper ... House. While he admired the ... President's courage, it was a ... risk to undertake "a meeting ... like this with no certainty that ... it will succeed". ... State Department officials are ... declining to speculate about the ... next step in the negotiating ... process until Mr Vance returns ... to Washington tomorrow night ... and reports to Mr Carter on the ... outcome of his talks. ... One possibility is apparently ... a further visit to the Middle ... East by Mr Vance later this ... month. Although he made ... virtually no progress in helping ... to reconcile differences between ... the Israeli and Egyptian view- ... points, his conversations have ... convinced him once again that ... both Mr Begin and President ... Sadat are interested in seeking ... a peace settlement. ... Christopher Walker writes from ... Alexandria: "In both Western ... and Arab diplomatic circles, the ... announcement of the summit ... meeting was being hailed as a ... triumph for American diplo- ... macy at a period when pes- ... simism about the future of Mr ... Sadat's peace initiative had be- ... come widespread. ... There were reliable indica- ... tions here tonight that the ... Egyptian Government sees the ... convening of the conference as ... proof that the Carter Adminis- ... tration is now willing to play ... a more positive role in the ... peace-making process, a point ... which President Sadat has been ... pushing hard both publicly and ... privately in recent speeches and ... meetings. ... There are hopes here that Mr ... Carter, by the renewed pressure ... on the Israeli to withdraw from ... the occupied territories. ... Michael Knipe writes from Tel ... Aviv: Mr Begin said tonight ... that Israel had made no change ... in its policies to accommodate ... the planned meeting. ... If Mr Sadat had earlier ... laid down preconditions for ... further direct negotiations with ... Israel, had changed his mind as ... a result of his discussions with ... Mr Vance, the American diplo- ... mat should be congratulated on ... his powers of persuasion and ... Mr Sadat for having accepted the ... invitation, Mr Begin said. ... Problems for Mr Vance, page 5

engineers threaten to ease protest action

...topher Thomas ... Reporter ... 10-month Post Office ... protest hardened ... when Sir William ... chairman of the Post ... said the end of the ... ad been reached in ... ions for a 35-hour ... week. ... Post Office Engineering ... reacted sharply, and ... a warning that its ... executive council ... step up protest action ... unless the announce- ... the prospect of some ... towards the claim. ... union was clearly ... that the text of a letter ... in William to the union, ... the impact of the ... had been made public ... an astonishing way to ... t", the union said. "We ... be talking to each ... through the media". ... POEU wants talks on ... of a proposal in ... McCarthy's report for ... a reaction on the work- ... to 374 hours, and the ... ations of the proviso that ... not increase the in-

Supporters feel matter should be dealt with by constituents and parliamentary party Liberals do not want Mr Thorpe to resign, survey shows

By Robert Parker ... Liberals throughout the ... party's 12 regions clearly feel ... that Mr Jeremy Thorpe, the ... former leader, who was charged ... on Friday with conspiring to ... murder a male model, should ... not resign. ... Most senior party workers ... show total disbelief at the ... charge. They feel that the ... charge and the allegations ... made by Mr Kenneth Scott ... should be dealt with by Mr ... Thorpe's constituents and by ... the Parliamentary Liberal ... Party. They also see it as a ... private matter for Mr Thorpe. ... That has emerged from a ... survey of nine chairmen in the ... 12 regions, from constituency ... workers and from party ... members. ... Some regions, such as the ... Eastern Counties, and some ... constituency associations, such ... as Ipswich, have sent long tele- ... grams to Mr Thorpe, expressing ... support and urging him not to ... resign. ... But yesterday one regional ... chairman was privately worried. ... He said the majority of the ... party did not appear to realize ... how serious the position was. ... Few people seemed to compre- ... hend that Mr Thorpe was ... charged with conspiracy to ... murder, he said. ... Mr John Dall, chairman of ... the Eastern Counties Liberals, ... said that he did not think the ... matter would make any differ- ... ence to the Liberal vote. ... "People who are worried about ... this sort of thing do not vote ... Liberal anyway", he said. ... It was hard to judge the over- ... all feeling, he added, but he ... sensed that it was one of sor- ... row and support. ... Mr Arthur Wood, chairman ... of Greater Manchester Liberals, ... said he thought it was better ... to let the matter rest for the ... time being. "This is not a ... party matter. It is entirely a ... personal matter involving one ... individual as far as the party ... is concerned. I hope the elector- ... ate will see it like this."

... Mrs Neve Orrell, chairman of ... the North West Liberal Party, ... said: "We must not down tools ... just because of this. We must ... get on with preparing for an ... election. The party itself can- ... not stand or fall on the influ- ... ence of just one man, be it ... Jeremy Thorpe, Jo Grimmond, ... David Steel, or whoever." ... She said her region had dis- ... cussed the matter on Friday ... and a majority felt that Mr ... Thorpe should not resign. "Any ... man is innocent until proved ... guilty. This surely must be the ... basis of Liberal Party response ... to Mr Thorpe."

... She had canvassed since the ... charge was announced, and ... found that to be the reaction of ... most Liberals. ... Mrs Winifred Smith, East ... Midlands region, said she was ... worried about the effect of the ... charge on undecided voters, but ... she felt it would have little ... effect on loyal voters and party ... members. "This has been hang- ... ing over our heads for a long ... time now, we have got used to ... living with it. People who are ... upset by it have already drifted ... away. ... "The general feeling of the ... constituencies is that it is not ... for us to interfere. It is up to ... them."

Cardinal tells of Pope's last hours

From Peter Nichols ... Rome, Aug 8 ... Most of the 115 cardinals ... entitled to vote for the new ... Pope are expected to arrive ... here this week. Those already ... present attended the second ... general congregation this after- ... noon to complete arrangements ... for Paul VI's funeral and pre- ... pare for the conclave. ... Crowds continued to file past ... the body lying on a catafalque ... in the summer residence at ... Castelgandolfo, where the ... Pope died on Sunday. The ... funeral is now set for Friday ... after two days of lying in state ... at St Peter's. ... Cardinal Benelli, the Arch- ... bishop of Florence, who until ... a year ago was the closest ... adviser of the Pope, recalled in ... a statement today Paul VI's ... success in preserving the ... Roman Church's unity through- ... out the difficult period after ... the Vatican Council. ... "There were moments", the ... cardinal said, "of authentic ... danger of schism". ... Today, Vatican radio broad- ... cast an account by Mr ... Giuseppe Caprio, Cardinal ... Benelli's successor as Under- ... Secretary, of the late Pope's ... last hours. ... He said that he had not ... expected so quick an end. In ... fact, on Sunday afternoon he ... had visited an ailing friend in ... the neighbouring town of Bagini ... di Tivoli. When he returned to ... Rome he had an urgent call ... from Cardinal Villot to come ... to Castelgandolfo. ... From his bed the Pope was ... trying to follow the prayers be- ... ing recited by Cardinal Villot, ... the private secretaries and nuns. ... His eyes were closed but he ... appeared to understand what ... was happening around him. For ... a while the doctors thought he ... might survive but the hope was ... of brief duration. His breathing ... became more difficult, his tem- ... perature rose, while his blood ... pressure sank rapidly. ... He died so quietly that those ... around him thought he might ... still be alive. They kissed his ... hand which was still warm but ... an electrocardiogram showed ... that the Pope had left this ... Earth to reach Paradise. ... British representatives: Car- ... dinal Basil Hume, the Archbishop ... of Westminster, will fly to Rome ... on Friday for the funeral of ... the Pope. ... The Archbishop of Birming- ... ham, Dr George Dwyer, the ... President of the Bishops' Con- ... ference of England and Wales, ... will also attend the funeral ... along with the Archbishop of ... Liverpool, Mr Derek Worlock, ... and the Bishop of Brentwood, ... Mr Patrick Casey, the secre- ... tary of the Bishops' Conference. ... Resolutions: condolence: In a ... telegram to the Vatican today ... President Brezhnev of the ... Soviet Union said: "Pope Paul ... VI's endeavours for peace, for ... détente, for ending the arms ... race will be remembered by ... all people of good will."



Notable double: Twins Mrs Paula Fudge (left) and Mrs Ann Ford display the gold and bronze medals respectively which they won for England in the 3,000 metres event at the Commonwealth Games at Edmonton. With Mrs Fudge, Sonia Lannaman, Donna Hartley, and Berwyn Price joining Brendan Foster as gold medal winners on the track. The Games have so far proved rewarding for British athletes. But it has been a British silver medal winner who has set the experts talking. In the 100 metres Allan Wells, of Scotland, finished only .04sec behind Donald Quarrie, of Jamaica, the Olympic 200 metres champion, and beat the Montreal 100 metres winner, Hasely Crawford, of Trinidad and Tobago. Wells's medal was the first in the short sprint by any United Kingdom athlete at the Commonwealth Games since 1938 and it confirmed him as a world class runner. The England team are third in the medals table behind the host country, Canada, and Australia. Reports, page 6

Officials press travel agents over refunds

By Edward Townsend ... Officials of the Office of Fair ... Trading have begun urgent ... consultations with the Associ- ... ation of British Travel Agents ... on the issue of refunds to ... travellers seriously affected by ... the French air traffic control ... dispute. ... It appeared yesterday that ... the Government, which ... jointly drew up the travel in- ... dustry's code of conduct, dis- ... agreed on the interpretation of ... a clause that allows for refunds ... when "material alterations" ... made to travel arrange- ... ments. The agency associa- ... tion evidently opposes refunds in ... cases where travel plans are ... affected by labour disputes. ... If no agreement is reached, ... one way in which the issue ... could be resolved is for a test ... case to be taken through the ... code's arbitration procedure. ... The majority of British hol- ... iday makers inconvenienced by ... the French dispute have been ... delayed for only a few hours ... but it appears that the Office ... of Fair Trading believes that ... those stranded for 12 hours or ... more should be covered by the ... code. ... The OFT said yesterday: ... "This situation raises difficult ... issues about the interpretation ... of the code which we are con- ... sidering as a matter of ... urgency." ... The clause states: "As soon ... as material alterations become ... necessary to tours, holidays or ... travel arrangements for which ... bookings have been made, tour ... operators shall inform agents ... and direct clients without delay ... and shall give clients the choice ... of either accepting the altera- ... tive, which must be of compar- ... able standard, or of receiving ... prompt refund of all money ... paid (less reasonable expenses ... when the alteration is due to ... hostilities, political unrest or ... other circumstances amounting ... to force majeure)." ... ABTA and OFT began com- ... piling the code in 1975 and it ... came into force about two ... years ago. The issue of whether ... tour operators might be liable ... when travellers are prevented ... leaving Britain by labour ... troubles overseas has never ... been tested. ... ABTA said yesterday that in ... its view the clause was ... designed to protect customers ... when alterations were made by ... tour operators themselves, ... whereas in the present case ... there was no question of air- ... craft being unavailable or ... hotel accommodation being ... changed or cancelled. ... Mrs Margaret Hoyle, ABTA's ... president, said: "We don't ... believe the clause has been ... misinterpreted. It has been ... cast in four times recently, and ... I am afraid it is a condition of ... life. It is inconvenient and ... rotten, but the code is very ... straightforward."

French air controllers rebuffed

From Ian Murray ... Paris, Aug 8 ... Representatives of France's ... 2,500 air traffic controllers left ... a meeting with M. Joe Le ... Theule, the Transport Minister, ... today saying nothing new had ... been offered to them. "A work ... to rule by the controllers last ... month disrupted European air ... services. ... The unions said that although ... the minister had shown his pre- ... occupation with air security, ... his proposals were no different ... to those put forward by the ... authorities in April last year. ... There had been no positive re- ... sponse to claims regarding the ... right to strike, numbers of staff, ... pensions and bonuses, "but the ... minister proposes to continue ... to discuss the matter." ... Union representatives will ... see the director of financial ser- ... vices at the ministry on Thurs- ... day. By then the controllers will ... have decided whether to work to ... rule next weekend. ... After today's meeting M. Guy ... Roux, of the communist CGT ... union organisation, said the ... controllers would be told to- ... morrow what had happened and ... would decide whether to pur- ... sue their action. He said the ... Government, in delaying nego- ... tiations, was responsible for ... troubles to passengers. ... The controllers had called ... off their work to rule pending ... the outcome of today's meeting.

Small step to racial equality in Rhodesia

From Nicholas Ashford ... Salisbury, Aug 8 ... Rhodesia's ruling four-man ... Executive Council today took ... its first step towards the final ... removal of racial discrimination ... as laid down in the March ... 3 Salisbury agreement, but it ... turned out to be a disappoint- ... ingly small step. ... At the end of a meeting of ... the Council it was announced ... that all public places such as ... hotels, restaurants, cafés, beer- ... halls, swimming baths, cinemas ... and public places shall be open ... to people of all races. ... The Council also decided to ... remove restrictions on trading ... and industrial areas, on facil- ... ities operated by local authori- ... ties and on voting in local ... government elections. ... The key areas where racial ... discrimination is felt by blacks ... — such as hospitals, schools, the ... government service and resi- ... dential areas — have so far not ... been affected. However, Bishop ... Abel Muzorewa, leader of the ... United African National Coun- ... cil and a member of the Exec- ... utive Council, emphasised after ... the meeting that work was in ... progress on dismantling racial ... barriers in these sectors. ... Bishop Muzorewa described ... today's announcement as "the ... greatest thing that has hap- ... pened in this country". His ... enthusiasm was not however ... shared by the rival Zimbabwa ... African People's Union (Zapu) ... whose spokesman, Mr Willie ... Musururwa, said "today's ... measures were irrelevant" and ... "too little, too late". ... One of the main criticisms ... aimed at the Rhodesian interim ... Government has been that it ... has failed to move swiftly in ... removing racial discrimination. ... A letter in today's Rhodesia ... Herald expressed the "con- ... cern" of white women faced ... with the prospect of being ... examined by a doctor of ... another race. ... While the removal of dis- ... crimination is the predominant ... topic at the moment, there is ... speculation once again that ... moves are afoot to persuade Mr Joshua ... Nkomo, co-leader of the Pa- ... triotic Front guerrilla organi- ... zation, to return to Rhodesia ... and take part in the internal ... settlement. The rumours origi- ... nated with a meeting which ... Chief Jeremiah Chirau, a ... member of the Executive Council, ... had with Mr Nkomo in London ... last week.

Red faces over a black market in Russia

From Michael Binyon ... Moscow, Aug 8 ... According to the French pro- ... verb, you have to suffer for ... beauty. ... The suffering that Russian ... women have to endure is the ... endless search for make-up. ... Lipstick, mascara, nail polish ... and other cosmetics are virtually ... unobtainable in Moscow. As ... more and more Russians ... demand an increasing amount ... of make-up, the search becomes ... ever more frustrating. ... Last year, according to the ... Soviet Ministry of Trade, the ... cosmetics industry satisfied ... only 50 per cent of the orders ... from shops for lipstick, 33 per ... cent for mascara and 12 per ... cent of the demand for eye ... shadow. ... This was despite the fact that ... total production was about 8 per ... cent higher than in 1976. ... The result is a rash of home- ... produced ersatz products which ... often turn out to be less than ... satisfactory. A few days ago a ... Moscow local paper reported ... that a woman and her daughter ... had been arrested for selling ... mascara, manufactured from ... shoe polish. ... The enterprising woman and ... her daughter had set up a stall ... inside an underpass in central ... Moscow, selling lipstick, eye- ... brow pencils and artificial eye- ... lashes. They advertised their ... wares to passers-by and did a ... roaring trade. ... Unfortunately some of the ... customers became suspicious. ... On opening their purchases at ... home they detected a strange ... smell. The shoe polish was ... mixed with cheap perfume, and ... the result did not inspire con- ... fidence. The private enterprise ... couple — who had given up their ... jobs as shop assistants to con- ... duct their profitable mixtures ... — were reported to the police ... and arrested. ... A doctor said the mixture ... could have had serious conse- ... quences for people's health, in- ... ducing allergies and skin ... rashes. ... Recently Izvestia explained ... the shortages by saying that ... girls were now beginning to use ... cosmetics at a much earlier age ... than previously, and more ... people had more money. ... Unfortunately our cosmetics ... industry as yet offers the con- ... sumer very little indeed", the ... newspaper said. ... However, new factories were ... being built and the industry ... was optimistic that it would be ... able to meet demand. ... A significant proportion of ... cosmetics sold in this country ... are imported, mainly from East ... Europe. Indeed Polish prod- ... ucts are advertised on a Moscow ... billboard. ... Soviet producers say their ... cosmetics are as good as the ... imports. But the problem is the ... packaging. Compacts, mirrors, ... powder puffs, make-up brushes ... and lipstick cases are all in ... short supply. And the lack of ... suitable containers is the ... greatest obstacle to higher pro- ... duction. ... To many Soviet women good ... cosmetics are of paramount ... importance especially after ... years of austerity. The demand ... is rising by 9 per cent a year, ... and the products, which are not ... cheap, are very profitable to the ... state. ... The young and the smart ... Muscovites still contrive to find ... a supply. But the black market ... price is high. And the alterna- ... tive is an endless queue.

oods kill 20 Italian d Swiss Alps

...st 20 people have died in the Swiss ... Italian Alps in the region's worst ... ng for 27 years. Twelve were killed ... a cloudburst set off landslides which ... ed holiday homes near the Italian ... of Domodossola. Roads and railways ... blocked and many farmers said their ... were ruined. Meanwhile forest fires ... eastern Spain and Corsica. Page 4

Education dispute

...Kent County Council, which is Conserva- ... tive controlled, is set to confront the ... Government over comprehensive education. ... The Secretary of State for Education and ... Science has told the council that its ... proposals are unsatisfactory and has ordered ... it to submit a fresh scheme within three ... months. Page 2

Dissident protest

...The executive of the Amalgamated Union ... of Engineering Workers has decided by ... five votes to two to sever links with the ... Soviet trade union movement in protest at ... the trials and sentences against political ... dissidents. A delegation will not be sent ... to Russia next year. Page 3

Onassis bride's doubts

...Mrs Sergei Kuzov, formerly Miss ... Christina Onassis has decided to stay in ... Athens for another 10 days while she ... considers whether to rejoin her husband, ... whom she married last week, in Moscow ... or to seek a divorce. Page 5

Money supply surges

...Money supply growth almost certainly ... accelerated last month although figures to ... be published next week will probably show ... that in the first quarter of the ... present financial year has remained com- ... forably within the Government's target. ... Banking figures out yesterday showed that ... the bulk of sterling deposits placed with ... banks increased by 11 per cent in July ... Page 15

US airbus rival

...Lockheed has announced a smaller Tristar ... to compete in a market at present ... dominated by Boeing and Airbus Industrie. ... Aeritalia, the Italian aerospace company, ... expects to sign a contract next week worth ... £1,250m to construct parts for Boeing's ... new 767 and 777 jets. Page 15

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HOME NEWS

NHS in crisis?—Doctors complain of chronic under-financing

Main trouble is infinite demand for treatment

The first in a series of six articles on the condition and outlook for the National Health Service.

By Annabel Ferriman

"No society can legitimately call itself civilized if a sick person is denied medical aid because of lack of means", Aneurin Bevan architect of the National Health Service, wrote in 1952, four years after his struggle to introduce a comprehensive service had come to fruition.

Heralding the new order, he wrote: "Society becomes more wholesome, more serene, and spiritually healthier if it knows that its citizens have at the back of their consciousness the knowledge that not only themselves, but all their fellows, have access, when ill, to the best that medical skill can provide."

How far has his vision been realized? Thirty years after, does the service offer everyone access to the best that medical skill can provide?

Imminent demise has been the prognosis on the health service almost since its inception, but in recent years complaints that it is "falling apart" from lack of money have become louder.

Consumers complain that general practitioners often process their patients like animals, that they use deputising services too much and do not turn out for home visits; that hospital waiting lists are lengthening; and that hospitals are run down by industrial disputes.

Doctors complain that the service is chronically under-financed, that their incomes have not kept pace with inflation and that the 1974 reorganization led to chaos in the hospital services and a ridiculous increase in the number of administrators.

International comparisons, however, do not suggest that Britain spends an especially small proportion of its gross national product on health. In 1975 it spent about 5.3 per cent, which was lower than that spent by the United States, Sweden and West Germany (7.4, 7.3 and 6.7 per cent respectively) but higher than that spent by Japan, Belgium and Switzerland.

Professor Rudolf Klein, of Bath University, points out that comparison with such countries as Sweden and the United States is unrealistic. Their income a head is twice Britain's, so that even if Britain spent the same proportion of the gross national product the amount a head would be much lower.

Britain's services should be compared with those of Italy, Spain and Greece, where income is nearer to that of Britain, if somewhat lower.

The answer, surely, would be that they compare extremely well. Britain's fixed budget service has contained spending in a way that insurance-based schemes have not and is the envy of many European countries.

A fee-for-service basis has led in some countries to high

technology medicine, which is frequently not cost-effective, and to unnecessary operations. The real difficulty that Britain has to face is that of demand, which appears to be infinite.

Ironically, successes in pioneering new treatments have increased the burden. Such developments as micro-surgery, open-heart surgery, hip replacements and kidney transplants have lengthened the queues.

Growing waiting lists (404,176 at their lowest in 1955 and 607,141 at their highest in 1976) overshadow the fact that many parts of the service have become more cost-effective. In surgery, for example, the number of in-patients seen each year doubled between 1949 and 1976, rising from 1,200,000 to 2,400,000, although the number of hospital beds fell by 8 per cent.

The throughput of all patients has been speeded considerably, average stay falling from 29 days in 1966 to 21.6 days in 1976.

But unless the public can cultivate a more realistic approach, live a healthier life and go to the doctor less, the service is likely to be pulled apart by competing claims for scarce resources.

The other trouble confronting the service is hospital doctors' low morale. They complain that they are consulted more but listened to less.

Various reasons can be suggested: the professional aspirations of other health workers; the egalitarian trends in

society as a whole; the demands for social justice from ancillary staff and the increasing power of administrators.

The 1974 reorganization has imposed extra barriers between the doctors and the decision-makers.

Before 1974 a consultant would put his case to the medical advisory committee, who put it to the hospital management committee, from which it went to the regional board.

Now the request goes to the medical executive committee, the district management team, the area health authority and the regional health authority.

At each stage it is considered by various consultative committees, including probably the regional manpower committee and the regional post-graduate committee. The central manpower committee gives a final decision.

The system must be simplified. No decision is likely until after the Royal Commission on the National Health Service reports next year. All that can be hoped for probably is some gradual pruning of the bureaucratic jungle.

Ultimately, the service's weaknesses are those of the nation. Professor Klein has said: "The real trouble is... that Britain is under-financed."

Unless Britain increases its real per capita income, the NHS will become the whipping boy of a declining economy.

NEXT: Rising mortality

WEST EUROPE

Portugal's new Premier to be named today

Lisbon, Aug. 8.—Portugal's political future, linked to the choice of a new prime minister to succeed Dr Mario Soares, the Socialist leader, hinged today on two crucial meetings.

President Eanes has announced that he will name a new prime minister tomorrow after consulting today the 18-member Military Council of the Revolution, the country's constitutional watchdog. He will then inform political leaders of his choice.

The leadership of Dr Soares's party, which has won every election so far since the 1974 revolution, met to decide its attitude to a non-partisan Government headed by a prime minister chosen by General Eanes.

The state radio said if General Eanes heeded political opinion—even though the parties could not agree among themselves on a new majority Cabinet—he would nominate a civilian and, most probably, a Socialist.

Dr Soares, dismissed as Prime Minister 11 days ago when his conservative partners withdrew from his Government after disagreement over land reform, declined to comment as he entered the Socialist Party meeting.

But Senhor Francisco Zalgado Zinha, the Socialist parliamentarian, said that if the President asked the Socialists to nominate a new Prime Minister, it should be Dr Soares.

Senhor Jorge Campino, another leading Socialist, said it would be a national and international error for General Eanes, who is also head of the armed forces, to choose a soldier as prime minister.

Professor Diego Freitas do Amaral, the leader of the conservative Centre Democrats, said in a statement that if General Eanes chose a party politician as prime minister designate it should be an independent.

Both the Socialist and the Centre Democrats, despite the collapse of their coalition partnership, have made clear that their support of a presidential candidate for the post depends on who he is his choice of a Cabinet and his programme.

Political commentators expected General Eanes to aim for a government which could at least pass essential legislation, including a new electoral law and a medium-term economic recovery plan, and begin negotiations for entry into the European Community before a general election next spring.

If all went well, the government could carry on to the end of the current four-year legislature in 1980. Failure, however, would carry the risk of a snap election before the end of this year.—Reuter.



Paris mime school: The mime artist Marcel Marceau (above) announced in London yesterday that an international school for training mime artists will be opened in Paris in November, subsidized by the city of Paris (Our Theatre Reporter writes).

Marceau said the 1,500-seat Théâtre de la Ville would be taken over by the school constructed underneath. The nine-month course would have places for about 100 students and from them Marceau intends to form a mime company.

Travellers 'increasing disease risk'

By John Roper

Health Services Correspondent

The two hundred million intercontinental air travellers are increasing the risk of tropical diseases, some lethal and transmissible, being imported, Professor Alan Woodruff, of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, says today.

Writing in the *Journal of the Royal College of Physicians*, he says the number of travellers through tropical and subtropical regions has increased enormously. Many holidaymakers in the last quarter of the year are exposed to infectious diseases, and travellers in the tropics, including much of Africa, are exposed to an even greater range of diseases, for which most of them are not prepared.

Information given in brochures issued by most tour operators is inadequate or misleading, he says. Brochures commonly omit to say that prophylactic measures should be taken and are readily available against malaria, typhus, sleeping sickness, and other diseases.

It is estimated that of the 23 million passengers who pass through Heathrow airport, London, in a year, at least four million arrive from the tropics or subtropics. About one person in 18 arriving in Britain has been recently exposed to disease before coming here.

Family doctors should increasingly consider tropical diseases when examining patients. Some might be suffering from diseases that could be communicated to others and so become a community hazard.

Malaria heads the list of "imported" diseases. In 1974 there were 662 cases, in 1975, 749, in 1976, 1,220 and last year just under 1,700.

Among transmissible diseases that are increasing in Britain are infectious hepatitis, tuberculosis, and salmonella infections, including typhoid fever. Smallpox, although almost eradicated, lingers on in the Horn of Africa. New virus infections, causing severe illness and a high death rate, are dengue haemorrhagic fever from the Far East, Lassa fever, first encountered in Nigeria, and Marburg/Ebola infections, first reported in 1967, when vervet monkeys were imported from Africa to European laboratories.

Sympathy of judge for coloured group

Mr Brian Farrer, the recorder at Colford Crown Court yesterday expressed sympathy with Wolverhampton's coloured community when he jailed a white man for a knife attack on a coloured man.

He told a young Indian: "We have a measure of sympathy for you. You belong to a minority group in Wolverhampton and we are not so stupid as to fail to recognize that a number of you and your brethren must go around in fear of violence."

Kevin Harrison, aged 21, of Hamilton Gardens, Burslem, Wolverhampton, was jailed for two and a half years after pleading guilty to wounding Trevor Ronger, a West Indian, with intent to cause him grievous bodily harm. Mr Ronger, also aged 21, of Intermark Street, Wolverhampton, was charged with pressing a flick knife. He was given a six-month jail sentence, suspended for two years.

Detective constable Leslie Farrer said the attack was "the aftermath of problems that arose in Wolverhampton a short time ago."

Young men remanded

Francis Tobierre, aged 17, of Graham Road, Hackney, London, and Roddy Henry, aged 19, of no fixed address, were remanded in custody for a week by magistrates at Highbury, London, yesterday, charged with attempting to procure a film. Mr Tobierre, aged 17, on August 4 at Queensbridge Road, Hackney.

Two deaths in N Ireland whooping cough outbreak

By Our Health Services

Correspondent

Two babies have died of whooping cough in Northern Ireland this year and the number of cases has risen steeply. The situation is similar to that in England and Wales, where this year nine children have died and the number of cases so far is nine times more than last year.

The Department of Health said there had been 31,360 cases since the beginning of the year in England and Wales. Last month was the worst, four children, all under six months, dying within two weeks. The department called it a serious outbreak of the disease.

The Northern Ireland Department of Health and Social Services insisted, however, that its figures did not signify an epidemic.

It said that since the middle of 1977 the number of patients treated in Northern Ireland had soared. At the beginning of 1977 there were only 50 but by the last quarter of the year there had been 163. This year there have been 215 cases in the first quarter and 393 in the second (the latter figure compares with 45 for the same period last year).

The department in London said yesterday that there was no sign that the outbreak was slowing.

Against the 31,360 cases so far this year, there were only 3,485 cases in the same period to July 21 last year. In the peak year of 1960 there were 58,000 cases and 37 deaths. An epidemic comes about every four years with as many as 30,000 to 35,000 cases.

The department said the number of cases had risen noticeably since the controversy over the risk of brain damage from whooping cough soared. Parents should consider very seriously having

their children vaccinated, the department advised. They should first consult their family doctors.

The risk of brain damage was said to be an official said, but there had been some irrational fears.

Mrs Rosemary Fox, chairman of the Association of Parents of Vaccine Damaged Children, said its campaign had nothing whatever to do with the deaths of the nine children.

Figures for whooping cough this year were no worse than in other epidemic years, she said, and she rejected the idea that fears about the vaccine were irrational. "The association's campaign has alerted parents to the controversy," she said. "The department's answers were not realistic, that the vaccine was suspect and that it was for the department to prove that it was not, and not to push people into using it."

Professor Sir Charles Stuart-Harris, chairman of the independent joint committee on vaccination and immunization, said fears about the vaccine were largely the result of publicity from the association. "The vaccine risk was not as serious as had been made out."

In a recent survey of 154,000 primary inoculations there had not been a single case of brain damage. There had been a few cases of children having fits.

The number of cases being treated in Scotland in five times last year's figures, the Scottish Office said, but there had been no deaths.

At the end of last month there were 1,550 cases compared with 266 last July. In the last peak, in 1974, there were 1,691 cases.

The vaccination rate of two-year-old children in Scotland was 55 per cent in 1976 compared with 39 per cent in England.

On-call doctors awarded redundancy payments

From Our Correspondent

Brighton

Two doctors, who were made redundant from a small hospital after working night and weekend stand-by duties there for nearly 15 years, have won their fight for redundancy payments.

Dr Owen Lloyd, of Middleton-on-Sea, and Dr John Riley of Yaxton, were awarded a total of £819 by a Brighton industrial tribunal yesterday.

After the hearing, Dr Lloyd said: "We have been here today over a matter of principle. So many other doctors are in danger of being dismissed from similar posts. The result could have repercussions up and down the country."

Mr Graham Woods, West Sussex Area Health Authority Staff Officer, had told the tribunal that the two doctors were made redundant after a reorganization affecting Bognor Regis War Memorial Hospital. They had been paid the equivalent of two sessions of three and a half hours for their on-call duties. They did not qualify for redundancy payments because, under health department rules, they had not worked enough hours a week.

Dr Lloyd said he and Dr Riley put in about 120 hours a week in "on-call duties" from 1963 until 1972, when they were joined by a third doctor.

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Forecast of 300,000 extra births

By Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent

The rise in the number of births in Britain since the end of last year is now expected to add nearly 300,000 to the population by the year 2017. Revised population projections issued yesterday by the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys show that 55,000 more births are expected up to 1981 than were forecast a year ago.

The projections are based on mid-1977 estimates of the total population of England and Wales, but take into account the 2 per cent increase in births in the last quarter of 1977 and the 1 per cent increase in the first quarter of this year. The figures show that 5,000 more babies were born in 1977 than forecast in the 1976-77 projections and that 6,700 more babies are now expected to be born in 1978 than were projected a year ago.

"Throughout the projections assume that there will continue to be more people leaving Britain than coming in to settle, with a net loss in England and Wales of 11,000 people rising to 21,000 by 1981 and 34,000 by 1983. Net outward migration is now expected to be about 5,000 a year lower than was projected.

The impact of a slightly higher fertility rate in the immediate future and slightly lower outward migration is expected to add 2,500,000 to the population by 2017, bringing the total to 51,500,000. Nevertheless, the population of England and Wales is expected to decline by about 180,000 between 1977 and 1983 before reverting to steady growth.

The expected decline will be caused by the combined effects of the rising number of deaths and outward net migration. The renewed increase in overall population is attributed by the OPCS to the relatively young age distribution of the present population.

That is expected to change over the next 40 years, with the number of children aged under 15 falling by about 1,500,000 between 1977 and 1986, rising again to approach the 1977 level by 1996, but falling steeply after that.

Three French tourists jailed

Three French tourists, convicted of molesting a 12-year-old Swiss girl buried when their family's home was blown away by a landslide at Rosas.

Roads and railway lines were blocked and many farmers said their crops had been ruined.—Reuter.

Generals: Hundreds of climbers are trapped in refuge huts in the Alps. Snow and falling temperatures. (Alan McGregor writes).

The snowline has dropped below 5,000ft and snowploughs are keeping open the higher passes.

A disaster headquarters has been set up in the carion of Zurich where a motorway was under 3ft of water in places.

Nine hamlets were evacuated and livestock taken to higher ground. Rail services, especially on main lines through the Alps, have been disrupted. The Rhine is closed to shipping between Basel and Strasbourg.

The council's work where forward commitments are undertaken, particularly where large schemes are involved.

The commitment "ration" stands today at £1.25m. The current government allotment for housing the arts is £600,000.

Mr Angus Stirling, deputy-director-general of the council, says: "This is much less than we really need. We are having to tell people that we can give them a commitment; but they won't get the cash until 1980 or 1981."

So if there is anything sufficiently derelict in your town, it may be a harm or a mission hall, there is a good chance that, in time, some money will be available.

20 die in Swiss and Italian floods

Lugano, Aug. 8.—At least 20 people have been killed in the Swiss and Italian Alps in the worst flooding to hit the region for more than 25 years, Swiss authorities said today.

Police said at least 12 people died today after a cloudburst set off landslides and wrecked holiday homes and camping sites in one area of the Italian Alps.

Rescue teams had recovered 10 bodies by nightfall and about 20 injured people were taken to hospitals near the town of Domodossola.

Police said several victims, most of whom were Italians on holiday, were killed when their fragile weekend homes collapsed. Others died when their cars were buried under earth and rubble.

The storms, described by Swiss authorities as the worst since 1951, also took eight lives in Switzerland including two 12-year-old Swiss girls buried when their family's home was blown away by a landslide at Rosas.

Roads and railway lines were blocked and many farmers said their crops had been ruined.—Reuter.

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So if there is anything sufficiently derelict in your town, it may be a harm or a mission hall, there is a good chance that, in time, some money will be available.

Abington's old jail was empty apart from warehouse use for the best part of a century. It opened in 1812 housed a variety of convicts and was then closed. Its visitors now have the freedom to indulge in a number of leisure pursuits, and they contribute towards an annual income of £140,000.

20 die in Swiss and Italian floods



Cars near Locarno swept into a heap by floodwater.

Valencia: Forest fires swept over Spain and parts of the holiday island of Majorca, while on the northern coast shops sold out of raincoats because of heavy rain.

A tuberculosis sanatorium was evacuated as a safety measure, as flames destroyed 1,000 acres of pine forest near Valencia.

Further up the coast, eight more fires were reported in Tarragona province while inland, forest fires stretched over six miles in the Lerida region.

Meanwhile, in the Santander area of northern Spain, now coping with a record influx of tourists, heavy rain fell for the second day running. One local merchant reported selling 1,000 raincoats in a single day—normally his supply for three months.—Reuter.

Paris: Fierce winds, with gusts of more than 60 mph, have been hindering firemen struggling to deal with forest fires in Corsica (Jan Murray writes).

During the night three hamlets on the north-east coast of Cap Corse had to be evacuated and although the blaze there stopped just short of the houses, all the surrounding forest was destroyed.

Every available fireman is on duty dealing with the 30 or so fires on the island. Yesterday one of them was burnt to death and another seriously injured.

The high winds are not only spreading the fires, but are making it impossible for amphibious aircraft to land on the sea to fill their holds with water to "bomb" the fires. Filling the holds at airports is a much slower process.

People taking care are entitled to social security benefits if the treatment has been given by a qualified person. The authorities began an investigation two years ago into the deaths of six people, including M. Barthélemy, charged with offences involving fraud and complicity.

Additionally, close scrutiny of the affairs at Gréoux has caused the income tax authorities to take an interest. They are seeking clarification of what it became of 7m francs (£800,000) that M. Barthélemy recruited masseurs locally and found, surprisingly, that there were very few qualified ones available. That, however, did not stop him and after a short course gardeners, garage hands and waiters were pummeled the patients. The patients, it is not object, but the French said, when it found out.

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Spanish typhoid outbreak 'under control'

From Our Correspondent

Madrid, Aug. 8

An outbreak of typhoid fever in an eastern Spanish town is under control, with only three persons still in hospital, a spokesman for the Ministry of Health and Social Security said here today.

Nineteen cases had been confirmed, of which only six were taken to hospital.

All the cases were recorded in the vicinity of Tortosa.

He had reached the museum, leaping over the rugged western hillside leading to the monument and his presence had been thought suspicious.—Agence France-Presse.

German tourist shot dead in Yugoslavia

From Our Correspondent

Tito, Aug. 8

A 20-year-old German tourist was shot dead by a sentry guarding Prince Njegoš's mausoleum on Mt. Lovcen, Montenegro, on Friday, judicial authorities said here today.

A communiqué said the incident occurred in late evening, when the mausoleum is closed.

The tourist, Josef Kilmabögl of Irshendorf, Bavaria, was fatally wounded after disregarding the sentry's order to stop the communiqué said.

He had reached the museum, leaping over the rugged western hillside leading to the monument and his presence had been thought suspicious.—Agence France-Presse.

People taking care are entitled to social security benefits if the treatment has been given by a qualified person. The authorities began an investigation two years

Cooke second after shoot-off in pistol event

Armenia	Armenia
Australia	Australia
Austria	Austria
Bahrain	Bahrain
Bangladesh	Bangladesh
Barbados	Barbados
Belize	Belize
Bermuda	Bermuda
Bhutan	Bhutan
Bolivia	Bolivia
Bosnia	Bosnia
Botswana	Botswana
Brazil	Brazil
Bulgaria	Bulgaria
Burkina Faso	Burkina Faso
Burundi	Burundi
Cameroon	Cameroon
Canada	Canada
Cape Verde	Cape Verde
Cayman Islands	Cayman Islands
Central African Republic	Central African Republic
Chad	Chad
Chile	Chile
China	China
Cyprus	Cyprus
Czechia	Czechia
Dominican Republic	Dominican Republic
Dominica	Dominica
Ecuador	Ecuador
Egypt	Egypt
El Salvador	El Salvador
Equatorial Guinea	Equatorial Guinea
Eritrea	Eritrea
Estonia	Estonia
Ethiopia	Ethiopia
Faroe Islands	Faroe Islands
Fiji	Fiji
Finland	Finland
France	France
French Polynesia	French Polynesia
Gabon	Gabon
Gambia	Gambia
Germany	Germany
Ghana	Ghana
Greece	Greece
Greenland	Greenland
Grenada	Grenada
Guatemala	Guatemala
Hong Kong	Hong Kong
Hungary	Hungary
India	India
Indonesia	Indonesia
Iran	Iran
Ireland	Ireland
Israel	Israel
Italy	Italy
Jamaica	Jamaica
Japan	Japan
Jordan	Jordan
Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan
Kenya	Kenya
Korea	Korea
Kuwait	Kuwait
Kyrgyzstan	Kyrgyzstan
Laos	Laos
Latvia	Latvia
Lebanon	Lebanon
Lesotho	Lesotho
Lithuania	Lithuania
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Nepal	Nepal
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Nicaragua	Nicaragua
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North Macedonia	North Macedonia
Norway	Norway
Oman	Oman
Pakistan	Pakistan
Panama	Panama
Papua New Guinea	Papua New Guinea
Paraguay	Paraguay
Peru	Peru
Philippines	Philippines
Pitcairn Islands	Pitcairn Islands
Poland	Poland
Portugal	Portugal
Romania	Romania
Russia	Russia
Rwanda	Rwanda
Saudi Arabia	Saudi Arabia
Senegal	Senegal
Serbia	Serbia
Seychelles	Seychelles
Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone
Singapore	Singapore
Slovakia	Slovakia
Slovenia	Slovenia
South Africa	South Africa
South Korea	South Korea
Spain	Spain
Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka
St. Kitts and Nevis	St. Kitts and Nevis
St. Lucia	St. Lucia
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Sweden	Sweden
Switzerland	Switzerland
Taiwan	Taiwan
Tanzania	Tanzania
Togo	Togo
Tonga	Tonga
Trinidad and Tobago	Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia	Tunisia
Turkey	Turkey
Turkmenistan	Turkmenistan
Uganda	Uganda
Ukraine	Ukraine
United Kingdom	United Kingdom
United States	United States
Uruguay	Uruguay
Uzbekistan	Uzbekistan
Venezuela	Venezuela
Vietnam	Vietnam
Yemen	Yemen
Zambia	Zambia
Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe

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for the gala ballet season that started on Monday at the Festival Hall is *Star Wars*: like you think what it must be like to try to assemble so many dancing stars on one stage, it is understandable. Everyone, it seems, wants to dance the same couple of showpieces. Everyone, that is, but Margot Fonteyn. She is entirely happy it seems, to come on immediately after the overture, and instead of insisting on bringing down the curtain; and she contented herself with the prelude solo in *Les Sylphides* and one other lyrical number, which on Monday was the choreography by *Romeo and Juliet* (Berlioz music, choreography by Skidmore). All very simple, gentle, done, and of course she got more applause than anyone else and deserved it.

As for any attempts at bravura from the rest of the cast, one last-minute substitute, entirely different. The Panovs tried a very original and successful performance because Valery's injury is not yet recovered, so Luigi Bonino came in to dance an amusing foot-shuffling, winking number with Pina Florey from Roland Petit.

Lynn Seymour, Jac Ann Polly for herself and Stephen Jefferies to Kurt Weill performed a similar diversification function later in the evening even though the Jokasta and the Don Quixote were not so long, and repeatedly on Ian Spurling's costume for *Mac* was hideously garish.

With the Panovs absent, it fell to Natalia Makarova and Yoko Morisita, with Fernando Bujoñes and Suzanne Sany, as their partners, to provide most of the fireworks expected on such occasions. The Japanese couple are highly proficient but to me seem to provide no insight into the roles that Strauss are writing (though the line is not so good) but with no flair, so originality.

Nobody would accuse Makarova and Bujoñes of lacking flair; unfortunately their originality in the *Don Quixote* bravura duet extended to extravagant and most splendid flourishes at completely different moments. If at later performances they get around to synchronizing their watches the result should be more fun for the audience.

Actually, Bujoñes's best moment on this programme was in the *Corsair* finale (his solo was, all right but not half what he ought to be able to manage) and Makarova was at her best in the duet from the second act of *Les Lakmé*.

And Maina Gielgud and Jonathan Kelly were ill advised, thought, to tackle the *Tchaikovsky Pas de Deux* in this context; later programmes will see them in a new work instead of Strauss's uncertainly about who does what and why whom, during the run: on Monday there was one programme listed in the hallway, another in the souvenir book, which also contained a revision list, itself revised by a loudspeaker announcement. Best and worst as a lucky dip with some big prizes and everybody guaranteed a present. May the force be with you.

BBC SO/Mackerras
Albert Hall/Radio 3

Paul Griffiths

Two domestic symphonies over the past two broadcasts for Monday's Proms. Where Strauss's *Symphonia Domestica* thrusts the composer's home life on to the concert platform, Schubert's fourth symphony takes the power of concert music and the orchestra to the home, which could be played within a circle of family and friends.

In this performance, however, Charles Mackerras emphasized not the potential intimacy of the Schubert symphony but the fatefulness which has won it the nickname "Tragic". The alternative world, of course, have been problematic in the Albert Hall, although it should have been possible to find more room for Schubert's geniality. As it was, the first movement was disfigured by the churning of the strings in perpetual motion, the refreshing parts seemed almost redundant. They made more of a contribution in the slow movement, although still in the shadow of the Schubert's mood, approach the score. Only in the finale, roused to frenetic tension by the hard driven tempos, did this begin to appear a possible interpretation.

Strauss's symphonic poems fared much better. One might have wished for strings more capable of responding to the beauty of Strauss's scoring for them; here the satin sheen of the strings was too often become cheesecloth.

Even so, the love scene was skillfully brought to a satisfactory climax, if that is the word, thanks largely to the many angelic plays of the strings. But Mackerras's willingness to give and take, the work as a whole, was the affection, the charm and the contentment of the Strauss family diary, as well as the cheerfulness so warmly brought out by the brass. Enormous credit to the orchestra in this performance, showed the piece to be benign and unpretentious.

Separating Strauss from Schubert was Bartok's first piano concerto, where interest was firmly riveted on Zoltan Kocsis's playing of the solo part. His clarity, his grim yet never unkindly play of the notes in brilliant colour and his rhythmic precision all fitted him perfectly for this most challenging of Bartok's concertos, but the BBC Symphony Orchestra was rarely in the same game.

Some of the notices on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions.

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Guest Column

Why London should have its own freeport



This week's guest columnist is Dilly Harrington, who is Deputy Leader of the Opposition on the GLC

A small boy came to my office at County Hall the other day and looked across at Norman Shaw's Scotland Yard and asked me did I know why it was called Scotland Yard? He did—I didn't.

According to him, it was an extra territorial piece of Scotland which the Scottish Kings left to pay homage to the English Kings in nearby Whitehall. In fact, it was one of the many areas along the Thames exempt from Custom and Excise duty. Today the Thames has many bonded warehouses. I believe that a modern day extension of customs-free facilities in the form of a freeport could be of real benefit to London.

A freeport or customs free zone is defined by W. A. Flare in *Port Economics* as:

"An isolated, enclosed and policed area within or adjacent to a port of entry. In this area goods may be landed, stored, mixed, blended, processed, repacked, manufactured and later re-shipped without payment of import duties and with a minimum intervention of customs officials."

The area is, however, subject with other port areas, to the regulations of the country relating to public health, labour conditions and immigration laws.

The earliest roots of freeports probably extend to the ancient entrepôt ports of the Mediterranean. Goods destined for land-locked hinterland states must flow through other nations' seaports. To maintain political stability, seaboard nations offered customs free entrepôt facilities, to avoid levelling import duties on essential goods destined for land-locked neighbours.

Rotterdam's freeport facilities can be viewed as a modern entrepôt concession. The north German ports of Bremen, Bremerhaven and Hamburg enjoy the greatest European autonomy as freeports. These ports were the principal towns of the Hanseatic City States. Hansaforth fortified these seaports into a Customs Union of German Cities in 1388. However, the old Hanseatic cities managed to retain substantial freeport areas.

The creative use of existing United Kingdom customs concessionary arrangements, such as inward processing relief, might be sufficient to create a "freeport". However, a study should be made of customs arrangements throughout the European Community. This would reveal any customs advantages enjoyed by our European partners that are not available within the United Kingdom. A variety of European customs operations, within the original six, were confined under various EEC Council Directives.

A casual study of these directives indicates that the Benelux countries have a simplified system of customs warehousing which could be beneficial to the United Kingdom. This "Régime" system provides administrative savings as it does not require a customs seal or close supervision by customs officials. More importantly, it would appear equitable that a London freeport should permit manufacturing activity. This would give resident companies within a dockland freeport similar privileges to manufacturers located at Hamburg or Shannon.

The usefulness of a freeport has declined as customs tariffs have been reduced throughout the world. Successful customs free zones can no longer rely solely on a customs concessionary advantage. The ports of Hamburg and Bremen offer excellent deep water berths. Shannon, Europe's most recent freeport, supplements customs concessions with corporate tax holiday on export profits. Companies in the Shannon Free Airport

Zone also receive development area grants.

Some 70 per cent of United Kingdom trade is now customs free. The remaining 30 per cent is largely manufactured from the United States and Far East together with some agricultural produce subject to duty under the EEC's Common Agricultural Policy. This, as many have recently commented, casts doubts on the viability of any British freeport development. However, it is my contention that London's dockland can offer the underlying advantages necessary to create a successful freeport. A freeport in London would enjoy some very real practical advantages.

Firstly, a freeport situated in London's dockland could use existing under-utilised resources, rather than require the expensive provision of new facilities. In its heyday, dockland operated as a secure bonded area. Today, dockland retains many secure enclosed areas and a Port of London Authority police force experienced in policing customs areas.

Secondly, the Government's inner city development programme includes London's dockland as one of the few "special partnership" areas. The proposed urban programme grants could fund the necessary infra structure improvements. Government assistance could ensure that rent levels within a freeport were competitive with those charged by industrial estates benefiting from regional aid. Such a favourable treatment can be justified by the chronic level of unemployment, peaking at over 15 per cent, that persists in dockland.

A London freeport, created with public help, could also assist in promoting a

wider industrial regeneration of dockland. There is a great need for an appealing new idea to act as a catalyst and stimulate interest in constructive development throughout dockland.

The social plight of dockland could best be alleviated by attracting firms providing the greatest job opportunities. This objective could be accomplished by locating small to medium sized firms which tend to have the highest labour content in their manufacturing activity. It would, therefore, be appropriate for a dockland freeport to provide services specifically catering for small manufacturers.

Smaller firms find the extra overhead required in producing acceptable documents for customs authorities an inhibiting factor in claiming duty relief on re-exports. A dockland freeport providing a centralized expert documentation service could extend the advantages of duty relief to the small manufacturer.

It is clear that a modern day freeport is not the panacea for all of dockland's problems. However, I would claim that the provision of customs free facilities would be of considerable use in marketing industrial space in docklands. As such, the provision of a London freeport should be given urgent consideration.

I'm sure there are many arguments against a freeport—why not at London Airport? Isn't some form of customs union act occurring anyway? Are the benefits only psychological? I'm sure there's an element of truth in all of this but I don't think I could be convinced any of them have an overpowering validity.

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Christians in Israel: persecution with the makings of a pogrom

In an article in the widely-circulated Israeli newspaper *Ha'aretz*, headed "Persecution of Christians in Israel: The New Inquisition", Isaac Lerz has written about the current difficulties of Christians in the Jewish State. He has described how groups of orthodox Jews have been vandalizing property and harassing various Christian sects and how, periodically, Christians are attacked so that now, they are employing Arab guards to protect them. These facts, he explains, "are seldom mentioned in the Hebrew press", and he adds: "What is hidden from the Israeli public has been known to important figures in the world, including the Pope and the President of the United States because Christian churches in Israel have sent delegations to both of them to protest about the attacks on Christian churches and their members in Israel."

The article refers to the reaction of the Ecumenical Council's Bulletin, which represents 271 Christian churches in about 100 countries, to the law relating to proselytism which was passed by the Israeli Knesset (parliament) earlier this year, and describes how the bulletin "called for an end to the slander campaign against the Christian churches in Israel."

The law in question was one which made it an offence, punishable by five years' imprisonment or a fine of 500 Israeli pounds, "to give money or some other benefit in order to persuade someone to convert from Judaism."

This is not the first time that *Ha'aretz* has written about "the Christian problem". As long ago as January 15, the paper reported that six American Christians had been arrested by the State Ambassador in Israel, Mr Samuel Lewis, "to express their concern about the law passed by the Knesset". They complained that their letters to the chairman of the Knesset, the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Religion had been ignored.

The report added that Christian clergymen felt that the law could cause them to be put in an invidious position, and even subject to blackmail, if they gave assistance to the needy when they asked for help; and that Bishop William Carey had "sent a strong protest to the Vatican". The Christians hoped to publicize the matter abroad "especially in church circles and among politicians who are known for their close ties with Israeli and Zionist circles so that they can put pressure on the Israeli Government not to implement this law."

Ten days later, the *Jerusalem Post* reported that a Knesset member, the Auda Party's Mr Shlomo Lomax had complained, in the Knesset, that a radio programme for children had "shown pro-Christian sympathies". He asked: "What will you do to prevent such serious incidents recurring, especially where children are concerned?"

The following month the Associated Christian Press Bulletin (No 229) reported that Mr Shlomo Lomax, a member of the Democratic Movement for Change, had said in the Knesset that he "considered the Christian missions a cancer in the body of the nation."

He also spoke of "seeking to bring to

an end the plan for the liquidation of all Jews, a plan which the Catholic church has had from its foundation."

The current report in *Ha'aretz* describes how, recently, a gang of thugs broke into the meeting-house of the Jehovah's Witnesses in Lavanda Street in Tel Aviv for the third time and "the place was totally demolished."

After an earlier attack six months ago, *Ha'aretz* reported that David Nemer, one of the 130 Jehovah's Witnesses in Tel Aviv, had said he could not understand how Jews could behave "in a way which made known to important figures in the world, including the Pope and the President of the United States because Christian churches in Israel have sent delegations to both of them to protest about the attacks on Christian churches and their members in Israel."

There have also been arson and bombing attacks—a hand grenade was thrown at a Baptist house in Jerusalem and an anti-Christian leaflet was discovered there, but the police found no suspects.

The anti-Christian campaign is led by a group called "Yad Leachim" (Help for Brothers), which, says *Ha'aretz*, has branches in Tel Aviv, Petah Tikvah, Eilat, Be'er Sheva and Haifa and is financed by rich Jews abroad, especially in New York. The report adds that the organization has impressive archives containing "thousands of facts on the activities of the various Christian churches in Israel" as well as "addresses of Jewish families suspected of contacts with Christians."

Information on Christian activities is gathered by a network of "agents", and the anti-Christian groups "have the support of the Israeli Ministry of Religion... Modest Prishchik, who is a senior official in the Israeli Ministry of Religion (he is called 'Secretary for Special Tasks') has similar archives to those of 'Yad Leachim' at the 'Keren LeYaldenu' (Fund for our Children) centre at Romema in Jerusalem." His information comes from personal letters sent to him by the Jewish Agency from all over the world and from details he obtains from the archives of 'Yad Leachim'. The "Jewish activists", as they call themselves, claim that their agents have infiltrated most Christian sects in Israel.

Isaac Lerz spoke to a man who was listed by 'Yad Leachim' as a "converted Jew" who helps the Christians draft Jews into their camp "but the man protested that all he had done was to organize trips to Israel for clerical organizations overseas."

Lertz asks: "Is every Jew who welcomes Christians a criminal as far as the 'activists' are concerned? Is the archive full of details about missionaries who do not exist?"

John Landsey, a leader of the Baptist Church in Israel, whose name is in the archive, said: "What do they want of us? We have never converted anyone. We are not interested in 'buying souls' as they claim. True, there are Jews who take part in our prayers, but that is because of our

belief in love between men, no matter what their religion is."

A Jewish student who began to participate in the prayers, described how his telephone rings constantly "with threats in three languages. They threaten that if I don't finish with the Baptists, someone will kill me. But I'm not afraid. What interests me is that they know exactly when and how I pray with the Baptists."

Some months ago, a gang of religious Jews attacked the members of a Christian sect at Rosh Pina and destroyed their meeting-house. The attackers told a journalist that the Christians had "bought Jewish souls", but *Ha'aretz* found that this story was untrue as no Jews in Rosh Pina had become converted to Christianity.

Periodically, groups of orthodox Jews break into schools financed by a Christian church in Jaffa and attempt to drag out Jewish children by force. There have also been scuffles at centres for new immigrants which began last Christmas when Jews demanded that "Christian rites" should be prohibited.

Ha'aretz has explained that having a Christmas tree was looked upon as "a Christian rite" (and it was, therefore, an offence on property built on land belonging to the Jewish National Fund, which declares that such property may be occupied by Jews only and that non-Jews—even Israeli Arab citizens—are forbidden to work on this land.)

In fact, those who practise the so-called "Christian rites" are simply Christians from the USSR who are married to Jews and have recently emigrated to Israel.

The main reason why such an unhappy state of affairs exists in Israel today is because the ruling coalition includes members of the National Religious Party who on the whole, tend to be extremely right-wing, expansionist, bigoted and intransigent.

The previous Labour Government also had to work in harness with the NRP, but as it was composed of the descendants of Zionist pioneers like Weizmann and Ben Gurion who were non-practising Jews, it resisted, when possible, the fanaticism of the NRP and its supporters. Now, however, Mr Menachem Begin, Israel's Prime Minister, thinks along similar lines to the NRP.

Nevertheless, it must be emphasized that the anti-Christian zealots and their supporters abroad comprise only a small minority of Jews.

After all, the Jewish concern for justice—which arose out of such injunctions as that of Rabbi Hillel who said: "What is hateful to yourself, do not to your fellow-man. That is the whole of the Torah and the remainder thereof is but commentary" is well-known. It seems conceivable, therefore, that at least some of those Jews in the West who fight for the rights of Jews to practise freely their religion in all the countries of the world, would—if they were aware of the facts—raise their voices in protest against the current persecution of Christians in Israel, even if only to counteract the harm being done to Israel's image in Christian circles.

Marion Woolfson

Police powers: when one man's constraints need not be another man's safeguards

Sir David McNeel's report to the Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure calls for a dramatic increase in police powers. He claims this is necessary to deal with the "crime wave". What he is actually suggesting is a radical change in the relationship between the police and the public and in the power of the police over a suspect held at a police station.

At present the police rely on public cooperation when they investigate crime. Sir David concedes that in the vast majority of cases this is forthcoming: where there has been a robbery or a murder, members of the local community are only too willing to help catch the offender. What the police cannot do is force the public to cooperate with their inquiries. They cannot insist on taking fingerprints, or on getting answers to their questions. These are the powers which the police should have. What would it mean in practice?

A police officer could arrive at the home of any individual even someone not suspected of an offence and ask what he was doing the previous night. If he refused to answer, or gave an answer which the officer considered evasive, he could be arrested and taken to a police station. If the police began to question a child living at the house and the child's mother intervened to try to stop the questioning, she, too, would be committing an arrestable offence—obstruction of the police.

At present the law provides that members of the public do not have to submit to search by the police, or allow their cars to be searched. Sir David recommends that the police should have power to compel random searches of individuals and their property on the grounds that these might have a "useful deterrent effect". This measure would be bound to worsen the relationship be-



tween police and groups who already come in for a disproportionate amount of police scrutiny. Blacks and young people with long hair.

Nor would it endear to the police those with whom they enjoy a reasonable relationship at present. For instance what law-abiding businessman would welcome being stopped at a road block on his way to catch a plane and forcibly detained for an hour while his car was searched in order to provide a "deterrent effect"? How many housewives would enjoy a demand from the police to go to the police station to be photographed and fingerprinted and being told they will be

arrested if they refuse merely because they live in a city where there has been a murder?

The Commissioner claims that as with so many powers which police possess, these new powers would be exercised with restraint—a surprising claim in view of the fact that he admits elsewhere in his report that the police are not restrained from certain activities even where they do not have lawful authority to carry them out.

The powers he calls for in relation to suspects are even more sweeping. He wants the police to be able to detain sus-

pects for up to 72 hours before they have to charge them. He proposes that this period should be able to be extended by a JP to whom the police apply in private and without any representation from the detained person. If the police suspect someone of an arrestable offence (and McNeel proposes that the definition of arrestable offence be dramatically widened) they can be held for up to three days, or with the signature of one JP, up to six days, or nine days and so on indefinitely.

Throughout this time the person can be interrogated after having received a new form of caution which tells them that if they give no answer, or one which is unsatisfactory, that could go against them at trial.

There is of course no guarantee that the interrogation would be confined to "where were you last Saturday night?" It could range over such topics as the suspect's relationship with his spouse (if he had fallen under suspicion of a sex offence, the state of his bank account (if fraud is suspected) or possible membership of the Communist Party (if the arrest was on a picket line). The suspect would be obliged to answer all such questions, all in fact that the police put.

Sir David claims that the public need not fear such information being collected because in many cases matters like these "come to police knowledge during their work and the confidentiality of such information is always respected". This, unfortunately, is simply not so. NCCL is at present investigating a case where the evidence, including witnesses' statements was insufficient for a charge but where the police handed the whole file to the suspect's employer.

Sir David reassures us that a police complaints procedure is brought on the basis of improper disclosure. But that is not a sufficient safeguard; the disclosure might never be discovered by the suspect and the police complaints procedure is, basically, a secret internal affair.

But the most serious aspects of the Commissioner's recommendation on interrogation is the new concept of "the duties of suspects" which he introduced. The duty of the suspect is in effect to prove to the police that he is innocent. This would inevitably mean that with the loss of the traditional safeguard of the right to silence, the police would devote more and more of their efforts to getting suspects to incriminate themselves rather than looking for independent evidence of guilt.

Sir David McNeel is right when he says that "it is for society at large to determine what kind of police service it wants and what reasonable constraints must be placed, in the interest of civil liberty, on police action". No doubt society will reject his proposals which, while using the language of consensus, would destroy that consensus on which British policing is traditionally based.

Harriet Harman

The author is Legal Officer, National Council for Civil Liberties.

The Chairman of the TUC replies to David Howell's open letter

One standard for the captains, another for the crew?

Dear Mr Howell, I am somewhat astounded by the tone of your "open letter" to me (*The Times*, August 1). You are asking me to stand up and be counted and distinguish between what you term the "good, decent, democratic trade union tradition" and what you term "the ugly undergrowth" of the movement.

I am quite prepared to condemn bad trade unionism in all its forms. But the rest of your letter attempts to smear trade unions with practices which are not part of trade unionism at all.

You associate, for example, "the racketeers, the pilfering, the rip-offs" with trade unionism. That is a gross slander on thousands of trade unionists at all levels. We all know that, unfortunately, "fiddles" have

grown up with many jobs. For the most part, the higher the pay and position, the larger the potential fiddle. I personally—and, I am sure, my fellow trade union leaders—condemn these fiddles, which are often condoned, encouraged, or at least given the "blind eye" by local management. But to imply that unions cause these problems is not only ludicrous but potentially libellous.

As to trade unions "ordering inquiries", I do not really see that this is our job (unless, of course, one of our own lay or full-time officials is involved). For trade unions to conduct inquiries in an area which is for management or the police would, I think, rightly be resented.

You then charge us with "ballot-rigging". I do not know

which union you are referring to, but whilst unions have differing methods of election and voting, there is not a single trade union leader who has ever defended ballot-rigging or any electioneering practice outside the rules of his own organization. Of course, an anti-ballot-rigging Bill, which the Tories drag out that smear?

In passing, I might add that some day I hope to see the captains of industry who back the Tory Party subject to the same degree of democratic control as union leaders. At present your backers are unaccountable. It is small wonder that the Tory Party opposes all meaningful attempts to introduce real disclosure of information or real industrial democracy.

You attack industrial action in the NHS. What the Tories

are really saying here is that health service workers should not have the right to strike like any other worker. That I totally refuse. In practice, the dedication and restraint of health service workers, of all grades, is remarkable. Despite press scares, the NHS record on strikes is very good—even including the occasional action by doctors whom certain Tories seem to exempt from their general charge of irresponsibility. And I challenge you to point to any official industrial dispute in the NHS where emergency services have not been kept going by the trade unionists themselves. To a considerable degree the problems of the NHS reflect the failure of the NHS to develop proper collective bargaining structures and sensible ways of determining

pay. This is a problem of public service pay generally and I have made my position on this clear in, for example, my article in *The Sunday Times* on December 4, 1977, in which I argued for more rational mechanisms for pay determination in the public service. The adoption of GSWU policy on this would tend to reduce conflict in the public services.

You then attack the closed shop. I find the Tory position on this remarkable. In other fields, the Tories are the first to condemn people for allegedly "getting something for nothing". Yet the free-riders who are prepared to accept the benefits of union membership without paying for it are elevated to the status of martyrs by Tory spokesmen and the Tory press. Management and unions alike

find the closed shop useful and equitable. Certainly, Len Murray has indicated that unions must follow their own rules and the rules of natural justice in enforcing the closed shop. I agree with that. But where the workforce agree and the management are prepared to agree, the GSWU will continue to press for union membership agreements as the law provides.

Yes, Mr Howell, I am prepared to stand up and be counted in favour of good, democratic trade unionism within the law, and to condemn any abuses. But I am not prepared to stand by and allow the trade union movement to be smeared by some of the points made in your letter.

David Basnett

An occasional series on new words and new meanings

Stepping into evangelical deep water

Most evangelicals have a tendency and a zeal to be somewhat evangelistic. But by no means all evangelists are evangelical. A useful distinction has been established between the two words. But now that the technical language of religion is no longer common parlance, the two words are often and increasingly confused, as in this review of French language teaching on commercial television in *The Times Educational Supplement*. "The teachers' notes are somewhat fuller, but a lot of space is taken up by an evangelical exposition which is likely to alienate users." A recent article in *The Times* on Marxists in higher education accused Marxist lecturers of having a burning sense that they alone are right and, mysteriously, an evangelical desire to convert their students

their students. More potentially misleading because of its religious context, an account in *The Times* of the General Synod of the Church of England reported that "the Bishop of Winchester, Dr Taylor, was afraid lest Christians might reach for an evangelical crusade instead of facing such issues as class and racial industrial disputes and family relationships".

As is evident, both words are derived from the same root, *evangelist*, the bringer of good news; specifically one of the writers of the four gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, and generally somebody who preaches the gospel. In the New Testament the word is used three times of a travelling missionary, probably designated no special office, merely his activity and duty of proclaiming the gospel. In the third century the technical usage of *evangelist* to refer to one of the authors of the

A recent article in *The Times*... accused Marxist lecturers of having a burning sense that they alone are right and, mysteriously, an evangelical desire to convert their students

canonical gospels was established. The word came to be used figuratively in secular contexts to describe somebody who spreads any opinion, belief, or doctrine, either by formal preaching, or by personal conversation, or by publishing manifestos. In this way it makes sense to say that the French Revolution found its *evangelist* in Rousseau; that Mary Whitehouse is the *evangelist* of cleaning up television; and that Colonel Gaddafi is an *evangelist* of revolution and

associated turbulent activities in other men's countries. *Evangelistic* is the adjective of this noun, and accordingly means preaching the gospel or, metaphorically, spreading any opinion or belief. It is an appropriate term to apply to Marxist lecturers or opinionated text books. Since the Reformation *evangelical*, another adjective from *evangelist*, has been generally applied to the Protestant churches, because of their claim to base their teaching preeminently on the gospel,

and to allow the Church less power to impose its interpretation on the individual. *Evangelical* in the Church of England is the technical term for the Low Church party or school, which lays special stress on personal conversion and salvation by faith in the atoning death of Christ.

This group originated in the eighteenth century to revive religion at a time when faith and morals were low, and many clergy were negligent and worldly. It had points of contact with the Methodist movement; but it sought to work in the parochial system and never contemplated separation from the Church of England. Opponents disliked the religious earnestness and puritanical enthusiasm of the *Evangelicals*. In 1768 six *evangelical* undergraduates were expelled from St Edmund Hall, Oxford, for "too much religion". But their piety and humanity gradually won them a large following, and in the nineteenth century they took a prominent part in missionary work and social reform.

Evangelicals emphasize the preaching and personal acceptance of the gospel. They do not attach much importance to liturgical worship or church authority. They reject the doctrines of baptismal regeneration and the eucharistic sacrifice, and exhibit a strong suspicion of the Roman Catholic Church, and hostility to characteristic Tractarian and High Church doctrines. In short, the man who uses *evangelical* as a metaphor for persuasion in secular contexts instead of *evangelistic* is stepping into deep and turbid ecclesiastical waters quite unnecessarily.

Philip Howard

Why Castro seeks a role on the world stage

If any of us diplomats serving in Havana during the early days of the Cuban revolution had reported back to his government that Castro would one day be playing a leading role in African affairs, he would have been invited to consider an early retirement. At that time few people outside Cuba believed in Castro's ability to survive, much less prosper. Now once again, in my view, we are guilty of underestimating his very considerable potential.

For most Europeans and North Americans, Castro is just a sort of "have gun will travel" man, currently operating in Africa under contract to the Soviet Union. There is a lot more to the Soviet-Cuban partnership than that. It is true that without Soviet backing in arms, logistic support and equipment, the military and political successes of the Cuban forces in Africa would be virtually nil; but we should also ask ourselves how much military and political success the Soviet Union would have achieved in Africa if Castro's troops had not been available. Would the Soviets—practised as they are in brinkmanship and international poker—have risked direct intervention using their own forces? If not—and I think they would not—where else could they have found a surrogate force of equal strength, dedication and loyalty for no force with such overall suitability for the job exists outside Cuba.

Cuba is, in fact, unique among developing countries, in her capacity for war. Her overall military strength is greater than her Latin American neighbours, including Mexico and Venezuela—possibly even than Brazil. It compares favourably with that of any Soviet satellite in eastern Europe other than Poland, its standing at home is high and it attracts an elite of the country's youth. It is, perhaps, the only country in the world, at any rate, dark-skinned—a very important consideration in the African context.

Even more important is the question of morale and political attitude. Conditioned by years of indoctrination, officers and men have no difficulty at all in justifying their participation in a foreign war. They have never heard of Soviet expansionism and neo-colonialism. They know only the party line and accept, with enthusiasm, their role as "standard bearers" in a glorious and sacred mission.

As they have been saluted in press and radio. They are greatly motivated, too, by the same search for a new, heroic national identity which has inspired Cuban track athletes and boxers with the necessary enthusiasm and dedication to reap an unprecedented harvest of Olympic medals.

One way and another the Cuban army under its commander-in-chief, who is also President of the State Council, Prime Minister and Secretary General of the Communist Party, has been shaped into the perfect instrument for Soviet requirements. A recent State Department estimate has put the Cuban expeditionary force as high as 45,000 troops and technicians. How long can a developing

country of 2.5 million inhabitants carry this burden when its domestic economy is strained to the limits? The short answer is, just as long as the Soviet Union sees fit to continue its massive aid programme, now estimated to be somewhere in the region of a million pounds a day.

Even with this support from its patron, Cuba's involvement in Africa does, of course, make necessary sacrifices on the home front. It causes shortages of luxuries, even of basic commodities, it drains off vital personnel such as doctors, engineers and other technicians. It also postpones indefinitely the possibility of any significant détente and renewal of trade with the United States.

How much does this matter to Castro? It would have mattered a great deal, I think, in his early days as a Revolutionary, but apparently no longer. He has always enjoyed playing David to the American Goliath and has, recently, asserted defiantly and on several occasions that the Cuban presence in Africa is not negotiable.

This is one of several indications of a change of position from that of the one time idealistic, national, patriot, for whom the welfare of his own countrymen was paramount.

Clearly the day has long since passed when a more diplomatic handling of young revolutionary Castro by the United States might have kept him in the camp as a sort of Caribbean Tito.

His progression from liberal socialism, through Marxism-Leninism, to the "Cuban Revolution" has come about as a result of nearly two decades of close contact with, and dependence on, the Soviet Union.

One way and another Castro has, clearly, become a creature of his natural inclinations as he is by nature fiercely independent—that from now on there is only one way he and his Revolutionary Cuba can survive and ultimately achieve the position of importance and of the international scene he so ardently desires.

And so we are led to the conclusion that the Cuban leader and his powerful military forces have become an integral part of the Soviet grand design—today in Africa, subsequently in the Middle East, the Far East, the nearer base in Latin America?

For any such exercise, however, he would of course need again need not only the green light from Moscow, but also full Soviet backing—and that at any rate in the foreseeable future seems unlikely. Unfortunately, the foreseeable future does not stretch very far, and one thing that recent history should have taught us, is that the Soviet Union will seize every opportunity to intervene anywhere in the world, if by so doing she can embarrass the West. Why should we expect otherwise? It is part of her openly declared beliefs that she must—just as it is part of our basic policy to frustrate her in her attempt to do so.

For his part, Cuba's Man of Destiny has declared himself ready and willing "to help revolutionary movements in all parts of the world". In the circumstances this is a declaration of intent that the rest of the world might do well to take seriously.

Sir Herbert Marchant
The author was previously British Ambassador to Cuba.



Castro in Africa: with President Nyerere last year.

Sceptical smile from Swiss over spy scare

The question of whether Switzerland, and in particular Geneva, is a nest of spies is being given a new airing. Western intelligence agencies are resorting to the covert equivalent of shouting from the rooftops that Soviet agents are pouring into the United Nations and its specialized agencies. The Geneva line-up of Soviet black operatives is said, for example, to outnumber its Western counterparts by close on two to one.

No detailed figures, of course; but after Mr Vladimir Reznai, a Soviet diplomat said to be an undercover GRU (military intelligence) captain, slipped away to Britain in June for political asylum with his wife and two children, "Western security officials" were estimating that maybe a third of almost 300 Russians here as

international civil servants or diplomats were "career intelligence officers" of the KGB or GRU.

Similar sources are cited as saying that in the compound of the Soviet diplomatic mission, a stone's throw from the Palais des Nations, a car is on round-the-clock standby to whisk strong-arm boys to any place in the city or immediate surroundings. In the Geneva context, such action would be uncharacteristic. The game so far seems to have been conducted by both sides with regard for Swiss neutral susceptibilities.

The parties are no doubt anxious to avoid drawing attention to themselves that would detract from Geneva's prime value to them as an international diplomatic centre with thousands of earnest young conference delegates from the Third World. With its abiding tradition of safe banks, Switzerland is so contented. For spies, too, small may well be beautiful.

In reacting to Western alle-

gations, Moscow Centre—to use the informed terminology of John Le Carré—seems so far to have maintained a stiff upper-lip restraint worthy of Smiley's Circus.

A comment in *Izvestia*, teleaxed to newspapers by the Novosti agency office here, did not mention even a single CIA agent's name. It said only that "American intelligence" was intriguing against Soviet employees at United Nations headquarters and the European office here.

The United Nations office at Geneva is currently the setting for an America scenario whose undisputed authors are United States intelligence services," it added. "They have organized a slanderous, provocative campaign in Geneva against Mr Lobachev, Soviet member of administrative staff at the European branch of the United Nations. It is self-evident that provocations emanating from the shores of Lake Geneva are just as groundless as those from the East River bank. None of this furthers the

interests of the United Nations Organization. Nor does it promote the normal administrative functioning of the United Nations Secretariat in New York or the United Nations office at Geneva."

In fact, what *Izvestia* regards as provocations have had no visible effect. The careers of two senior Russian officials—one here (Mr Lobachev, chief of conference services) and one in New York (Mr Geli Dneprovsky)—do not seem to have been disturbed by their being referred to as KGB in press reports soon after the Reznai defection.

After having his case examined by the United Nations, in view of the published allegations and a joint American-British diplomatic protest, the appointment, the latter is expected here shortly to take up the post of chief of personnel at the Palais—unless he is still subject to a last-minute Swiss veto.

Apart from other considerations, the Swiss Government on security grounds suggests that, for the ILO at least, something lies behind the smoke to which public attention has been drawn.

In the city's newest diplomatic ghetto—the growing complex of high-rise residential buildings at Petit-Saconnex, where members of several intelligence services, Western and Warsaw Pact, reportedly rub shoulders daily in the lifts—few names are said to have vanished from mail-boxes over the past week or so. But a press report, claiming that "420 spies are in a panic" as a consequence of Reznai's defection, has been received in Bern with a sceptical smile and shrug. "We have had no significant change in our statistics regarding Geneva," said an official of the Federal Department of Justice and Police.

Every time someone from an international organization leaves Switzerland under certain circumstances we are confronted with similar stories," he added. "But in general we do not have a marked increase

in espionage activity. There has been no great change in the Geneva scene. It was self-evident that the lakeside city was "an important place for exchange of information". The official total of operations detected by Swiss counter-espionage from 1948 to the end of last year is 178—34 of the cases involving Western countries, and 124 the Soviet block.

In the 1950s the emphasis was rather on the military side," the Department says. "But now it is comprehensive espionage: military, geographical, political, diplomatic, economic, industry. We no longer get the type of spy who does only one job, military or civil." Cases in those years included: Mirage engine blueprints removed from an engineering works over an 18-month period and sold to Israeli intelligence (1968); An unsuccessful attempt by East Germans to recruit a Western nuclear physicist; Arrest of "Max the Shoo-

maker", a French national said to have supplied false passport for more than 20 years (1963).

Two British officials, one of whom—a diplomat, said to have obtained names of British account holders from two employees of a Geneva investment house in return for payment believed to approach £50,000. Case never came to court (1972).

The biggest espionage affair since the war was the conviction last year of retired Brigadier Jean-Louis Jeannenot, former chief of the Swiss Army air protection troops. He got 12 years—for communicating secrets to military attaches from the Soviet Embassy in Bern. The official Swiss assessment now is that the information passed to the Russians from 1962 to 1975 was such that Switzerland "has been forced to make important changes in very different areas of national defence".

Alan McGregor

Castro...
a role on...
the world stage



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STILL UNCERTAIN FUTURE

...are there. One is of EP (Directly Elected in Parliament), the other, half-witted sheep (the latter Parliament)—and both are there. That is, as limited in the report yesterday by the Lords Select Committee European Communities, that awaits us after 1979. The questions to report address itself to the two parliaments, the one voice, or at least, the British component in the European Parliament. And what procedures are such to be obtained? First point, the committee, a preponderance, of favour of harmony, of minority taking, what called the contrapuntal future relationship and Mr. Erich Powell, Neil Martin, in the company of Lord Thomlinson. This view, as Mr. Powell, was that of having a directly European Parliament, as the existing one, delegates from national as, presumably, that should not simply national counterparts approach European from a specifically perspective. Any to coordinate their with those of West. It will therefore either succeeds, defeat the use of direct elections, is to that vision, the of the European Parliament should be a new political animal, dedicated higher Community

IDEAS ON ARMS CONTROL

...is obvious for a long time there is something a little wrong with the idea east and west are limit the arms race. It is not just lack of goodwill, though, both supply, but whether idea of counting the weapons, and agreeing to produce agree, are effective and that he high political hoped in these negotia- (SALT) in particular one of the touch- west relations, yet so limited in their so quickly overtaken logical change that seem to be creating not that they over- thinking is badly contribution has now Dr. Christoph director of the Institute for Strategic a paper published out of the first year of 1972, was so taken by technol- that even the jeff was quickly lost. It is even more because change takes fully within the care- upon but also lines, that used to the categories. The of flexible and highly apions can be quickly from tactical, onal warheads. The, for instance, can from land, sea or variety of warheads from as low as 500 miles. The Soviet can easily be as a European to a weapon. Categories

...ped children
...being waged by and others of the (Times April 10, and July 3) to remove children from long- has caused grave con- many parents of men- children. Parents sident in the Royal ospital have asked me their behalf. perience the views of a totally impracticable, ough they may be. It, orders have fallen into generalizing from the id have used selective strengthen their case. ly aware that as Ms n has shown in her are children in the residential care and for the sharp improvement or closing of badly run institutions, together with more comprehensive local authority provision. We ask the Secretary of State, Mr. Ennals, to stand firm, that good hospitals should be encouraged and not swept away on emotional grounds whilst authorities precasti- and some families suffer in- tolerable burden. Surely it would be infinitely preferable to build a new caring service based on the best of the existing one with real co- operation between government local authorities, voluntary organizations and parents. Yours faithfully, ELIZABETH NORMAN, Chairman, Friends of The Royal Redhill, Surrey.

...than the one given to the Select Committee by many distinguished witnesses and apparently accepted by it, namely "that everything possible should be done to prevent conflict or rivalry from developing between the European Parliament and the national Parliament." Without some degree of such conflict and rivalry it is hard to see how the DEEP will ever develop any identity or effective role. What, after all, would it be expected to do in cases where different national parliaments took different views? If its members simply divided along the same national lines the whole institution would be rendered pointless or worse. The Committee rightly warns against too quickly establishing complicated procedures which might subsequently turn out to be ineffective. But it then dis- regards its own advice by recom- mending the establishment of a "European Grand Committee" composed of all members of the EEC Scrutiny Committees of both Houses and of their Sub- Committees, all directly elected MEPs from the United Kingdom and "such other members of either House of Parliament as that House might appoint." This body would clearly not be a com- mittee of the British Parliament (and therefore the label "Grand Committee" is seriously mis- leading); nor, as envisaged, would it have the power to vote, or to pass binding resolutions. Its primary role would be "prom- oting understanding between, and knowledge of the work of, the two Parliaments." It seems an unnecessarily cumbersome mechanism for achieving that, and, as Mr Douglas Hurd has written, "the difficulty will be to prevent such a committee from dying of boredom." Mr Hurd is no doubt also right to say that the main responsibility for the relationship between the two parliaments will in practice lie with the political parties. It is probably best left to them.

...to a focus on the military out- put—surprise attack, pre-emptive nuclear strike, etc. ... At a time when—due to technological innovation and qualitative im- provements—quantitative defini- tions can no longer fully encapsulate the military mission that is to be curtailed, that mis- sion itself must be made the primary and explicit focus of agreement. As Dr Bertram points out, this approach already forms the basis of the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) treaty of 1972, which is one of the very few successful arms control agreements. Both sides agreed not only to limit but in reality to forgo the invest- ment in strategic nuclear systems against ballistic missiles. Verification depends not on the count- ing of precise numbers but on seeing that capacity does not exceed a threshold beyond which it would provide an effective defence. Similarly flexible criteria could be applied, for instance, to the ability to launch a surprise attack in Europe. The danger point would come "when the accumulation of particular types of weapons approaches the threshold of a new mission capa- bility." Thus tanks, for instance, would look potentially more offensive if deployed close to the border in a high state of readiness and in numbers greatly superior to the other side. Dr Bertram admits that this approach is not the answer to everything, and it might be added that the problems of arms control will never be solved until political antagonisms can be re- duced to a point where arms no longer matter. Nevertheless, the increasing inadequacies of the present approach make it impor- tant to explore seriously any constructive ideas that could lead to improvements in the next decade.

...Air travellers' plight
...Your leader on the plight of air travellers (August 1) is timely. One of the causes of the unaccept- able makeshift camps at our air- ports and railway stations is the oversize of stand-by tickets by the scheduled airlines. Large numbers of passengers arrived in Britain during the "low" season, and now their only way home is via "Sky- train", because the scheduled air- lines are, as usual, fully booked during the peak. "Skytrain" by itself would be a nearly self- balancing operation; but it cannot be expected to carry all these extra passengers as well. Unfortunately, it appears that much stricter regulation is needed. Each scheduled airline should be made responsible for returning all stand-by passengers whom they carry outward. The airlines should devise a method of checking when each passenger wants to return, and should not sell an outward ticket if the intended return is at a time when they expect to be fully booked. Outward passengers should be given a voucher stating their agreed week of return. In this way responsibility for minimizing the problem is placed firmly with the scheduled airline that sold the out- ward stand-by ticket. Yours faithfully, A. J. LUCKING, Flat 20, 17, Broad Court, Bow Street, WC2, August 3.

Should doctors strike?

...From Lord Taylor of Harlow
Sir, Professor Denis Hill (August 5) quotes Sir Theodor Fox on the difficulties facing the doctor when confronted with what he believes to be a false antithesis. I think Sir Theodor is presenting a false antithesis. No doctor wants to strike. But equally no doctor worth his salt wants to be a down-trodden injustice inflicted by a near-monopoly employer, in the last resort, what on earth should he do? Moral indignation—Sir Denis's "moral indignation"—cuts little ice with a powerful government, dedi- cated to pragmatic expediency. To take an extreme example, suppose in 1984 a left-wing socialist govern- ment ordered British psychiatrists to deal with political dissidents, should we really exclude the possi- bility of industrial action? The truth is that problems arise for pro- fessional men and women in a socialist state which have not yet been resolved. When I was coping with the doctors' strike in Saskatchewan in 1962, I talked long and earnestly about this with the young Minister of Health, Mr Allan Blakeney (in- cidentally, he has now been Remies of Saskatchewan for the last seven years). We agreed that for doctors, with their special obligations to humanitarian principles, were not an acceptable bargaining weapon. But if they were denied the right to strike, they must have a fair and just alternative. This was all the more necessary if the state forced upon them a near-monopoly em- ployer. The only answer we could think of was to follow the breakdown of negotiations with compulsory arbitration, binding on both parties. It followed that, if the government wished to have a national health service, the price it was, in honour- bound, to pay was an open-ended commitment to implement all such arbitration awards, however distaste- ful these might be to the govern- ment concerned. Equally, of course, the doctors would be bound by the arbitration award. We placed this in writing before the Saskatchewan Cabinet, and it was accepted. We then placed it before the doctors of Saskat- chewan. Alas, at the last moment, they turned it down, thereby losing a tremendous opportunity. In Britain, we have an independ- ent review body, making impartial recommendations to doctors' re- nunciation. But its findings are binding on either party. Time and again, they have proved acceptable to the profession. But time and again, they have been rejected by the government of the day, because their implementation would have been inconvenient. Until governments are willing to accept a genuine alternative to industrial action, it is unjust and unrealistic to expect the profession to give up strikes as a weapon of last resort. Yours sincerely, TAYLOR OF HARLOW, Glyn Ceirion, Clwyd, August 6.

US policy in Africa

...From Dr Peter Janke
Sir, I returned last week from a trip to Salisbury and Washington. The current debate on Rhodesia and public concern on this issue has largely missed the new and fundamental factor in the dispute—the foreign policy of the Carter Administration. The British Government brought the Americans into the Geneva negotiations and to Malta because of lack of power. Once in the Americans quickly took the lead, for it became apparent that President Carter, relying upon the black American vote which Ambassador Young interprets in an exclusively racial manner, could not alienate his internal support by backing a Rhodesian internal settle- ment. A considerable body of opinion in the Labour Party, on the other hand, notably led by Mr Harold Wilson and Lord Goodman, considered the March internal solu- tion merited much closer study and even support. Perhaps dogged by the experience of Suez in 1956, or merely aware of the powerlessness of the British Government to apply any muscle in this issue, the Foreign Secretary decided to act independently. Both the US and Britain have a keen interest in the peaceful development of Rhodesia and in southern Africa generally. But there are strategic and mineral interests are of immediate concern because our dependency is a fact today. US dependency, although growing, will only become crucial in the future. The US can weather a few years of chaos in the region. Europe cannot. This time factor lies at the root of an independent French African policy. It should stimulate initiative in Westminster now. To wait for December or January in Rhodesia is to wait for doom. Yours faithfully, PETER JANKE, Senior Researcher, Institute for the Study of Conflict, 12,124 Golden Square, W1.

Freedom of choice

...From Mr D. L. Stockton
Sir, A letter to The Times cannot take the place of a university lecture or tutorial. But your readers should be allowed to know that few (if any) ancient historians would regard Professor Hayek's remarks (August 3) about the comparative safeguarding of personal liberty at Athens under "the 30 tyrants" and under the democracy as anything but superficial, glib, and erroneous. If Professor Hayek wishes, I should be happy to give him a tutorial on the subject—he would, of course, have to present a reasoned and properly documented essay on the subject first. I am, Sir, your obedient servant, DAVID STOCKTON, Brasenose College, Oxford, August 3.

Worse than ermine

...From Lord O'Hagan
Sir, Some of the more philanthropic Conservative peers are anxious about the future of the Labour colleagues. I am confident that Mrs Thatcher will win the election, but one day, perhaps under the premiership of the erstwhile Lord Stansgate, the dissolution of the peerage will un- fold. Tory peers will survive and adapt. But some of the most recent Labour creations are relatively old, and I do not think that the IMF will ever tolerate the number of quangos necessary to accommodate the huge number of Labour Lords created by Prime Ministers Wilson, and Callaghan. I suspect that the Labour Move- ment will not deal gently with old comrades named with a tide. I therefore appeal to all democrats

Mr Jeremy Thorpe's candidature

...From Mr Richard S. Rowntree
Sir, I write as one who is both a Liberal and a magistrate to express concern at the precipitate action of the North Devon Divisional Liberal Association in confirming their support for Mr Jeremy Thorpe as their candidate at a forthcoming general election. Their desire to support a man to terminate his parliamentary career prematurely on the basis of proven fact rather than on charges as yet undecided? Other Liberal members of Par- liament may feel that they are em- barrassed by Mr Thorpe's hetero- geneity to stand again, but this pales beside the embarrassment many Liberal supporters have felt at the lack of support Mr Thorpe has received from his colleagues during the past two years. If sitting Liberal members really feel that they will be harmed through the Scott affair and the forthcoming trial, then their own vacillation, divisions and con- ductory conduct, and finally, the blame, Mr Thorpe himself has shown a steadfastness and deter- mination which is a pleasing contrast. I am, Sir, yours faithfully, MICHAEL HART, St John's College, Oxford, August 7.

Ecology in next election

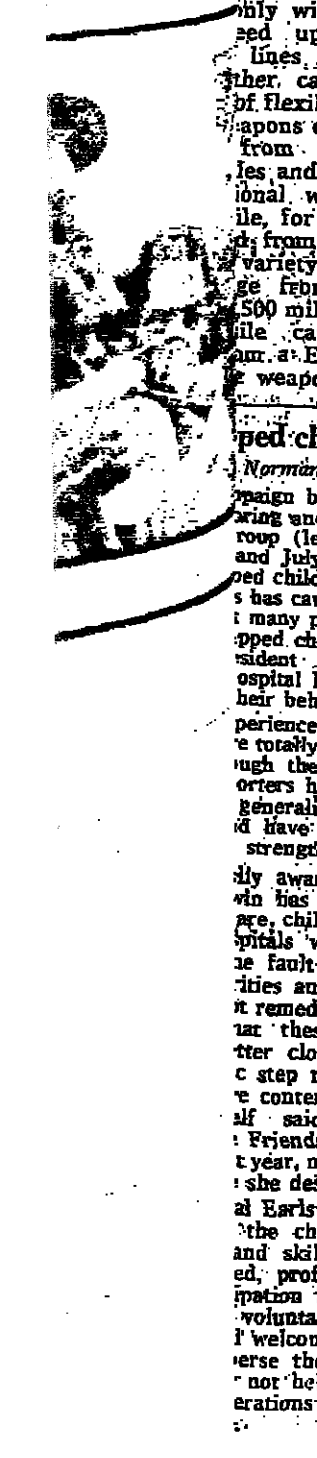
...From Mr Edward Dawson
Sir, David Steel's courageous article in The Times (August 7) about the Liberal Party's determina- tion to bring "ecological" issues to the fore in the next election is a welcome change in political attitudes. For years environmentalists have struggled to push their cause, and the political agenda. Frequently they have failed to understand the political realities of life and have been called "eco-nuts" as a result. Politicians for their part have been motivated merely by a desire for un- limited growth in ignoring the constraints imposed by the world's finite resources. Environmentalism is, of course, a radical movement. It implies a new view of the world; one which takes account of non-tangible values. A central feature of the argument is that the world's eco- nomic growth is out of date and needs to be replaced by different and ecologically sound criteria for decision-making. James Robertson, puts it well in his recent book The Sustainable Society: the concept of sustainable development should change direction. The emergence of "green" parties on the Continent has shown that there is a growing tendency to question conventional politics. In this country "eco-politics" is yet embryonic and does not pose a threat to the main parties. However, a meeting of environmental groups under the title of New Alliance, held in London last month, may be the start of a similar movement here. Mr Steel is aware that his party is the most vulnerable to attack and replacement by a fringe party, and therefore has to be responsive to changing opinion, but it would be wrong, I think, to suggest that the Liberal's pro-environment stand is motivated merely by a desire to ingratiate itself with the public instinct. This genuinely seems to be the logical offspring of a new analysis which is becoming more widely accepted. The issues are certainly more complex than those identified in his article but it is this thinking which penetrates further into the main- stream of political debate than Mr Steel's stand could mark a turning point in the history of post-war politics in Britain. Yours, etc., EDWARD DAWSON, Secretary, Committee for Environmental Conservation, 29, Clevelly Street, EC1, August 7.

Under a Panamanian flag

...From the Secretary-General of the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization
Sir, Mr Lewis (August 7) referred to a visit of two senior ship sur- veyors from the Department of Trade to Panama. The experts are members of the Marine Safety Corps, recently established by the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO), the United Nations Specialized Agency dealing with maritime affairs. The Corps is designed to provide a nucleus of experts who will assist governments in formulating regula- tions and carry out surveys and in- spections of ships in accordance with international conventions relat- ing to safety and pollution preven- tion. It is intended primarily for the benefit of those developing nations which lack the experienced and trained personnel necessary for the proper enforcement of interna- tional legislation. As a measure of cooperation and in recognition of the fact that the enhancement of maritime safety anywhere is in the interest of the shipping nations everywhere, developing, and de- veloped alike, several advanced maritime countries have kindly in- dicated willingness to make available to this Organization and its Marine Safety Corps the services and ex- perience of their experts for short periods at a time.

Unfriendly dogs

...From Dr Gavin J. S. Simpson
Sir, Has anything more pusillan- timous ever been published than the RSPCA's leaflet on how to cope with an unfriendly dog (The Times, August 2)? My advice, based on years of experience, is as follows: rear at the offending animal at the top of your voice, and fix it with a unrelenting gaze bearing the unmistakable message that if its hostility continues you will react by biting through and thrum the life out of it. This usually leads to sub- sequent retreat and rapid owner intervention. Those people who value your company more than their pet are careful to characterize the animal's behaviour subsequent visits: for the rest, the technique described affords a convenient method of putting a stop to any further, social inter- course. It is a shame that anyone can do so much harm to a dog. I am, Sir, yours faithfully, GAVIN J. S. SIMPSON, Oldier Hill House, Oldier Hill Drive, Rochdale, Lancashire.



THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

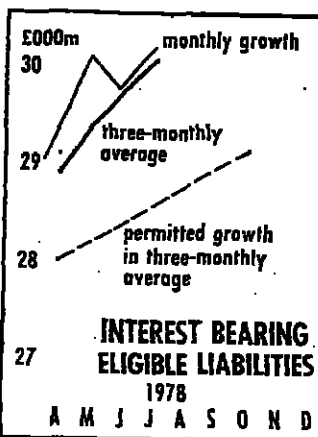
LAING
LOCAL
OR NATIONAL
CONSTRUCTION SERVICE

Money growth up in July still comfortably on get after first quarter

More responsive to the money supply than figures to be a Thursday next will still show that growth in the first quarter of the present financial year has been comfortably in line with the Government's target.

Of faster monetary growth in the first quarter of the 1978-79 financial year, the four 19 eligible liabilities of sterling with banks in the first quarter of the year rose by 29.3 per cent to £39.4 billion.

The increase in the money supply, however, has been less than the 30 per cent target. The increase in the money supply, however, has been less than the 30 per cent target. The increase in the money supply, however, has been less than the 30 per cent target.



not been anything like as strong as in May and June—and the intervention of the authorities in the foreign exchange markets in early July.

The largest growth in eligible liabilities has once again been recorded by the clearing banks. Their eligible liabilities rose by £685m, rather more than for the banking system as a whole.

Figures from the clearing banks indicate that they expanded considerably their share of total lending, probably partly because they held their base rates below other market rates when market conditions tightened appreciably in late June and early July.

Over the four-week period their lending to the private sector rose by £793m, about half of this representing seasonal factors. Much of the increase went to the manufacturing and agricultural sectors.

The question now arises as to how the clearing banks can hope to get inside the Government's 30 per cent target range of 8 to 12 per cent and consistent with the aim of trying to keep monetary growth near the mid-point of the target.

The main reasons for the larger-than-expected increase in eligible liabilities in the July banking month appear to have been the continued buoyancy in bank lending—albeit that the underlying trend has probably

to be that sterling M3 may not have grown by more than 1 per cent. In that case the annualized rate of growth in the first quarter of the 1978-79 financial year will have been little more than 9 per cent—well inside the Government's full-year target range of 8 to 12 per cent and consistent with the aim of trying to keep monetary growth near the mid-point of the target.

Mr Marshall said the committee would hold informal meetings with trade union and business leaders to discuss how to restrain inflationary pressures. He stressed that the committee would not become directly involved in collective bargaining.

Mr Meany welcomed the setting up of the new committee, but he remains fairly cool towards the Administration.

American trade unions feel to some extent cheated by President Carter, who won the election in 1976 in part because of very strong AFL-CIO support.

Mr Meany admitted that the top legislative priority of the AFL-CIO for this year, labour law reform, is dead at the moment. The 1978 Congress is concerned.

The legislation, which has effectively been killed in the Senate, would have increased the ability of trade unions to recruit new members.

There can be no doubt that some trade union leaders believe that the Administration gave insufficient support to the Labour Law Reform Bill.

Mr Meany said that to ensure the passage of the Bill next year the AFL-CIO was considering changing its approach towards political action. He refused to specify the sort of changes he has in mind.

President Carter now faces a bitter dilemma. He needs the political support of the unions and their cooperation in his anti-inflation programme, but at the same time he knows that some degree of White House intervention in collective bargaining may become essential and that such intervention could smash his relations with the unions.

£2m Crane loss defies £3m profit forecast

By Our Financial Staff

Crane Fruehauf, the Norfolk-based trailer company which was the subject of a successful bid by Fruehauf Corporation of the United States last December, made a pre-tax loss of £305,000 in 1977 and a net loss after extraordinary items and tax of £2,044m.

At the height of the bitterly contested takeover battle in November the then Crane board forecast profits of £3m.

The full year's accounts have been audited by Coopers & Lybrand, whose name also appears below the £3m forecast made in support of a rival bid by Inchcape on November 8.

The results show taxation of £636,000, of which £620,000 is deferred, and extraordinary items of £790,000. Of these £408,000 was the cost of abandoning a joint manufacturing venture in Iran and £382,000 the cost of defence against the Fruehauf bid.

The auditors now state that their opinion proper accounting records were not kept by some of the group's companies. The books of Crane Fruehauf Finance, which was switching from manual to computer storage, were in particular disarray.

Through the group physical stocks were much less at the end of the year than the records at the time suggested.

When Fruehauf eventually won the bid battle in December with an offer of 100p a share, valuing Crane at over £15m, Crane's directors, led by Mr Angus Murray, the chairman, attracted criticism from the Takeover Panel for repudiating their £3m profit forecast.

This had been based, *inter alia*, on the assumption that Crane's present management and management policies will not be changed.

Mr Brandon Gough of Coopers said the auditors "carried out the appropriate steps in terms of the accountancy profession" in accepting the Crane directors' assumptions while not accepting responsibility for them.

The new board of Crane is considering legal action, as is Lough in similar circumstances after its equally controversial takeover of Dunford & Elliott.

The Takeover Panel put Crane "on notice" in January and is now in the "active phase" of its investigations.

Despite these developments, Fruehauf is confident that Crane is now trading profitably.

The board argues that the takeover of the company or the takeover of its business "was the phrase used in Allied's 1976 accounts after shareholders agreed to the issue of further authorized capital.

De Beers consolidates 30 pc levy on diamond prices as demand holds

By Michael Prest

De Beers Consolidated Mines is to raise diamond prices by 30 per cent overall from the next "sight" or sale on August 21. The increase will be imposed this year will be dropped.

The increase reflects not only the underlying strength of demand for stones, but also includes an element of adjustment to take account of the decline of the dollar, in which diamond prices are expressed.

It is clearly felt by De Beers that the heavy demand which forced up prices and led to hoarding in the cutting centres at the end of last year and the beginning of this has been tamed. A spokesman said that full confidence has been restored in the diamond market and speculation virtually eliminated.

But it is pointed out that the surcharge at July's sight was 10 per cent, so that, incorporating the currency adjustment, all De Beers has effectively done is

to formalize prices already higher than those introduced with the last increase in December.

Diamond price increases have been frequent in recent years, with three in 1973 as well as a currency adjustment, another in 1975, two in 1976, and two last year. A 40 per cent surcharge was imposed in March and reduced by stages.

It has been suggested that De Beers has experienced difficulty in meeting recent demand for some kinds of stones, and some analysts feel that the latest rise could reduce demand. Others argue that De Beers is admitting that the speculators were right in forcing up prices and that the increases could spark off another speculative spiral.

In either event De Beers is likely to have higher earnings in the second half, perhaps reaching £1,000m (£595m) against previous forecasts of

£950m. This would bring earnings for the whole year to £2,065m, producing earnings per share of 190 cents and a possible dividend of, between 62.5 and 65 cents.

In London shares were up 21p to 423p.

Surcharges over and above the diamond prices were introduced by De Beers earlier this year in an attempt to flush out large speculative holdings, chiefly in Tel Aviv and Antwerp.

A 40 per cent surcharge in March was lowered to 25 per cent in April, to 15 per cent in June, and then to 10 per cent last month.

Diamonds were changing hands at rates up to 100 per cent above official prices, and De Beers was worried that the stability it has traditionally maintained in the market would be upset. Through its marketing arm, the Central Selling Organisation, De Beers exercises effective control of the diamond market.

PO expands facilities for showroom marketing

By Patricia Tisdall

The Post Office is pressing on with its plans for a chain of high street telephone showrooms and offices.

A prototype of the new showrooms, intended to make the telecommunications service more accessible to customers, opened at Swindon in mid-July, after two months ago. Details of design, location and staffing are being dealt with and at least 50 more shops will be set up within the next two years.

For its business users the Post Office is doing a preliminary study into producing telephone directories in microfiche, issued in addition to the conventional directories, the microfiche versions would adhere to the same boundaries. The production cost of a full set is about £100. However, they could be bought singly too.

The Post Office is waiting for potential users to indicate the likely demand, as well as other information such as the frequency of updating before going ahead.

However, its telephone showrooms plans are already well under way. Results from the "Swindon Telephone Shop", which was set up at a cost of £21,000 in Post Office premises in the town centre, are being assessed to see if changes are needed. The showrooms, which it is planned, will all be in main shopping areas, will give customers the opportunity to try out telephone equipment before ordering.

Previously the only such facilities were available in only a few sales bureaux on the outskirts of towns.

At the new shops, domestic subscribers will be able to see the new types and colours of telephone available in massed off the conventional black, white or grey table sets.

Business telephone users will be able to try out devices such as the "callmaker", which can store up to 400 telephone numbers and is used for making calls as well as loudspeaking telephones and key and lamp units.

These and other facilities are already described in the Green Pages section at the back of telephone directories. As part of the new marketing drive, this section in the 1978 directories has been redesigned.

The innovations follow criticism by the review committee chaired by Professor (now Sir) Charles Carter last year that in general the Post Office needed to improve its marketing and learn more about what its customers wanted.

anger Lloyd's large

Owners are determined to fight against the insurance provided by Lloyd's on the grounds that it is years that fly the flag and several years with a high rate of claims.

Chandler, the Greek Shipowner, said today that 70 per cent of Lloyd's to other shipowners.

"The union of shipowners to its own industry is moving away," he said.

"The 50 per cent of premium imposed by Lloyd's raises the pre-war cost and freight rates less than 10 per cent."

Owners challenge statistics invoked to justify the list of total year-olds, but no one is against them.

Unusually, Carr, the shipowner, is the issue on the shipowners' American market, the surcharge on shipowners' fleet will be other markets."

US Government faces showdown with unions

From Frank Vogt

Washington, Aug 8

The Carter Administration has moved swiftly to try to avert a damaging confrontation with America's trade unions.

Mr Ray Marshall, the Secretary of Labour, announced that the White House had established a new top-level committee "to coordinate our statements and activities with respect to collective bargaining."

The Administration has encountered difficulties in winning the cooperation of the AFL-CIO union organization in its anti-inflation efforts. There have recently been increasing indications that the AFL-CIO could shift nearer outright opposition to President Carter's efforts to secure wage restraint.

Mr George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO, complained to President Carter in a private meeting two weeks ago that Mr Barry Bosworth, the chairman of the White House Wage and Price Council, was siding with employers in wage negotiations.

Mr Meany said yesterday that the Administration should strengthen its efforts to force companies to limit price increases, rather than putting pressure on the unions.

Establishment of a special White House committee is a direct attempt to mollify Mr Meany and to try a new way of winning union support for the anti-inflation programme.

The committee, which is being headed by Mr Marshall, includes Mr Robert Strauss, the chief administration inflation spokesman; Mr Bosworth; Dr Charles Schultz, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers; and Mr Landon Butler, a Presidential assistant.

cent of the value of total Greek industrial exports for that year. The ban is expected to reduce Greek exports of textiles and clothing by 35 per cent this year.

The restrictions also concern the export of cotton T-shirts and blouses as well as other items sensitive to the United Kingdom. The ministry said quota levels for these products for 1978 had already been exhausted.

Manufacturers claim that no quota can be imposed on Greek exports of textiles and clothing.

40pts to \$1.5340. SDR-5 was 1.2705 on Tuesday, while SDR-1 was 0.657398. Commodities: Reuters' index was at 1431.7 (previous 1429.61). Reports pages 18 and 19

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The TriStar 400: Lockheed's entry in the 200-seat airliner market.

Lockheed adapts TriStar to compete with Airbus

By Arthur Reed

Lockheed, the major United States aircraft manufacturer, said yesterday that it intended to enter the market, at present dominated by Boeing and Airbus Industrie, for a new 200-seat airliner.

Its candidate will be the TriStar 400, a shorter version of the TriStar already in service with British Airways and a number of other airlines round the world.

Lockheed appears to have an open mind on whether it should be powered by Rolls-Royce engines, as is the case with the basic TriStar, or with engines from the two major United States companies, Pratt & Whitney and General Electric.

The TriStar would compete with the Boeing 767, which has been bought in quantity by United Air Lines, the big American carrier, and the European Airbus A300-B10, ordered by Lufthansa and Swissair.

Lockheed said last night that it would cost less than £50m to develop the aircraft from the basic TriStar and, if ordered this year, it could be ready in 1981, a year before the 767 or the B10.

Its forecast was that there would be a market for about 1,500 aircraft in the 190-230-seater class in the 1980s. Of these, some 300 would be in the 220 to 230-seater range, and it was for that sector of the market that the 400 was designed.

Aeritalia to build for Boeing

From John Earle

Rome, Aug 8

Aeritalia, the Italian state-owned aerospace company, expects to sign next week an important contract with Boeing for construction of parts for its new family of 767 and 777 airliners, according to Signor Franco Viezzoli, chairman of Aeritalia's parent Finmeccanica.

Interviewed in a weekly magazine, Signor Viezzoli said Boeing planned to build 1,000 of these new aircraft over the next 10 years, and the deal would be worth 2,000,000,000 lire (about £1,250m).

The deal, he added, would lead to the creation of more than 1,000 new jobs, above all in the south, and should keep Aeritalia busy for the next 20 years. Aeritalia signed a collaboration agreement with Boeing for design and manufacture of commercial aircraft seven years ago.

The original projects with Boeing, however, never got off the ground and Fiat subsequently withdrew from ownership. Under the new contract, press reports suggest that Aeritalia will be responsible for parts of the wing and tail.

China offers multi-million pound mine contract to UK

Peking, Aug 8—China has asked Britain to design, construct and equip two coal mines in a deal worth hundreds of millions of pounds. It is connected with the supply of coal to a proposed electricity generating plant in Hongkong, informed sources said.

They said the matter had been discussed during the current visit to Peking by Mr Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade. The outcome depended on the result of a feasibility study, but the sources appeared confident that Britain would accept the offer.

Other sources said a British company had signed a £40m contract with the Chinese for a chemical plant last week. But details were not revealed because of delicate negotiations.

Mr Dell is being accompanied by 13 leading British businessmen, and sources said the Chinese were showing particular interest in a long-term joint venture in the oil and gas industry, and the aerospace industry.

The proposed coal mines at Tazewell in northern China would each have a capacity of between two and three million tonnes annually. Sources said that if the feasibility studies succeeded design work would be carried out by a group consisting of Powell Duffryn and the National Coal Board.

Meanwhile Mr Dell and Huang Hua, China's Foreign Minister, agreed today on the resumption of negotiations for the signing of a civil aviation agreement, according to informed sources here.

It was initiated in June, 1973, but never put into effect because of problems over the status of Taiwan's China Airlines, which uses Hongkong, and the need to take Hongkong interests into account.

Mr Dell also had a meeting with Li Hsien-shan, the Chinese Vice-Premier. Sources said Mr Li had spoken optimistically about the future of Sino-British relations and then were joined by the British businessmen for a second hour.—Reuters.

Markets moved

The Times index 220.90 +1.32
The FT index: 507.0 +1.6

THE POUND

	Bank	Bank
	buy	sell
Australia	1.73	1.67
Austria	29.25	27.25
Belgium	45.75	62.25
Canada	1.25	2.18
Denmark	11.00	10.50
Finland	8.27	7.92
France	8.72	8.32
Germany	4.04	3.82
Greece	71.50	67.50
Hongkong	9.25	8.80
Italy	1670.00	1585.00
Japan	385.00	360.00
Netherlands	4.25	4.15
Norway	10.55	10.10
Portugal	88.00	83.00
S. Africa	1.91	1.78
Spain	150.50	143.50
Sweden	8.92	8.52
Switzerland	3.46	3.24
US	1.98	1.92
Yugoslavia	38.25	36.25

Notes for small denomination banknotes only, as supplied by the Bank of England. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Pages
18 Bank Base Rates Table
19 Preliminary Announcement: George Blair
16 Annual Statement
18

State cash for Singer jobs fight

Workers fighting to save 3,000 jobs at the Singer sewing machine factory on Clydebank are to receive about £40,000 from the Government to help pay for a study by management consultants, which could cost more than £75,000. The work force and unions will have to find the remainder of the bill.

The American-owned company plans to cut about 3,000 of the 4,800 jobs at the plant in its proposals to phase out the production of industrial sewing machines.

Shop stewards believe many of the jobs can be saved and last month asked Mr Bruce Millan, the Scottish Secretary of State, to finance a study by management consultants to look for alternatives to the Singer plans.

Opex decision awaited on dollar pricing

A decision is expected within a week on whether members of the Organization of Petroleum

In brief

Exporting Countries will hold a special meeting to concert action to compensate for the decline in the dollar.

Sources in Kuwait said that Shaikh Ali Khalifa al-Sabah, the Opec president, has been discussing whether to call a conference in September. A London recently to examine ways of compensating for the fall in the dollar, but it is not known if any conclusion was reached.

Plessey compensates retired executive

Mr Eric Frye, aged 55, a former finance director and deputy chief executive of Plessey, who retired at the end of March for health reasons, received £10,000 as compensation for the premature ending of his service agreement. The latest Plessey annual report reveals a special contribution of £19,796 to a company pension scheme in respect of his early retirement.

Liverpool meat traders on pay blacklist

About 25 individual meat traders employing 97 porters on the Liverpool Stanley wholesale market have been placed on the Government blacklist for an alleged breach of the pay guidelines.

Bathgate walk-out

About one thousand production workers went on strike yesterday at Leyland's truck and tractor factory at Bathgate, West Lothian. The stoppage is over a pay dispute involving the operation of new machines.

Automation warning, page 16

George Blair & Co., Limited
(Engineering and Steelfoundry)

ANNUAL RESULTS

Year to end March	1978	1977
Turnover	£10,165	7,231
Profit before taxation	958	882
Profit after taxation	477	436
Earnings per share	26.8p	24.9p
Dividends per share—gross	15.0p	3.4p
—net	10.0p	2.2p

Points from the statement by the Chairman, Mr. Ian Blair

- Record year for the group. Profits exceed forecast made at time of going public.
- Exports now account for 28% of group sales.
- Continued new product development is providing strong base for future growth.

The Company's shares are traded on The Over-the-Counter Market. Details of this market together with copies of the full Report and Accounts can be obtained from the Secretary, George Blair & Co., Limited, Newcastle Alloy Steelworks, Forth, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE1 3RB. Telephone: 0632 610771.

Atom plant emergency plans made public

Plans to deal with a nuclear emergency at a power station or processing plant have been made available to the public in public libraries near the installations.

Mr Anthony Wedgwood, Secretary of State for Energy, in a written answer to a parliamentary question said the plans had recently been made available after a recommendation by the Flowers Committee on Environmental Pollution.

In the event of a serious accident the plans would come into operation at once, involving possible evacuation with local emergency services able to call on the National Radiological Protection Board and the Health and Safety Executive.

Mr Bevin said Britain had an excellent safety record during its 25 years of nuclear power. The possibility of a serious accident involving a release of radioactivity affecting the nearby population was exceedingly remote.

But it was prudent to have plans to deal with such occasions. If an accident were to happen nuclear operators had taken out third party insurance to provide up to £5m per incident. If this cover proved insufficient, it would be supplemented by national and international funds to a total of £50m.

Liquichimica's creditors agree on £19m aid

From John Earle, Rome, Aug 8

Creditor banks of the ailing Liquichimica chemical company, at a meeting attended by Signor Filippo Pandolfi, the Treasury Minister and Signor Paolo Baffi, governor of the Bank of Italy, today agreed to provide emergency funds of 30,000m lire (£18.75m) to enable its plant to resume production. This is an instalment on a scheduled allocation of 46,000m lire.

The future of Liquichimica, which forms part of the Ligas group, has been obscure since Signor Raffaele Ursini, its former managing director, was arrested last month on fraud charges.

A statement after the four-hour meeting said the banks concerned would draw up proposals by the end of September to form a consortium to rescue the company.

Last week creditor banks also reached agreement in principle to set up a consortium and provide emergency funds for another troubled group, Societa Italiana Resine.

Full automation key to success of super-Mini, BL tells stewards

By Clifford Webb

BL management has told shop stewards at its Longbridge, Birmingham plant that workers will have to accept far-reaching changes in long-established working practices if the new £250m super Mini project is to be a commercial success when launched in 1980.

Last night a company spokesman said: "How our people respond to the challenge of moving from a low-wage, low-output economy to one requiring high skills and high pay is of the utmost significance, not only to BL but to Britain as a whole."

The biggest changes would be required in the newly-completed 750,000 sq ft body plant being equipped with automated body-welding machines and robots from Germany, France and Britain. They would be capable of producing one super-

Mini body every 25 seconds—equal to 400,000 a year.

This degree of automation had not been seen before in the British motor industry. Maintaining it under the present practice—largely a case of waiting for a fault to occur before tackling it—would be impossible.

Round-the-clock preventive maintenance as practised in continental and Japanese car factories was a "must" and would have to be undertaken by teams prepared to stop long-established restrictive practices resulting from inter-union rivalry.

The initial response from some shop stewards—more money now as an incentive to accept the change—would be resisted by management. It had accepted similar deals in the past, only to see workers falling to keep their side of the bargain when faced with the consequences of new technology.

Longbridge senior stewards recently discussed the matter and decided to call a meeting of all 600 shop stewards in the plant to try to present a united response to management. There are already calls from some shop stewards for an immediate £13-a-week increase in return for acceptance of the principal of technological change.

There are many motor industry experts with experience of similar automated body lines in Europe who believe that the best Mr Ray Horrocks, Austin Morris managing director, can hope for is a compromise, which would still prevent his achieving the high production levels necessary for economic operation.

Establishing manning levels for the new body plant is another crucial factor.

Leyland toolmakers lobby AUEW talks

A leading union official yesterday pleaded with angry, banner-waving Leyland toolmakers not to take unofficial industrial action in support of their demands for higher wages and uniform rates throughout the company's factories.

About 60 toolmakers from 14 plants gathered at the headquarters of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers in London to press their claims to members of the union's executive council who met there yesterday. Mr Terry Duffy, a member of the council, told the demonstrators from inside the building: "I think unofficial industrial action would be very damaging to Leyland and I feel that 18 months hence most problems will have been overcome."

Steps were being taken to secure parity and higher differentials. The toolmakers had received one parity payment and were due to receive a second next week.

Meanwhile, the toolmakers accused the union of preventing them from meeting management and Mr Duffy of being "a traitor". They were told the union's constitution prevented the executive council from meeting or negotiating on behalf of unofficial bodies such as theirs.

Referring to a strike by 32 toolmakers at the SU Carburetor plant in Birmingham, Mr Duffy said he would advise the strikers to go back to work.

Mr Hugh Scanlon, the union's president, said: "As far as we can see the company has fulfilled all the assurances that have been negotiated and agreed with the working party, which includes three representatives of the toolroom workers."

"These negotiations have resulted in an agreement which will give parity for all toolroom workers by November 1979."

On arrival at the island the pontoon will be towed at high water to a previously cut and prepared beachhead landing site stern first.

Anchored in position the 1,700-ton pontoon will drop with the tide until it settles against a sand rampart, which will then be scraped down to form an unloading ramp.

Mobile equipment will be off-loaded under its own power across the timber-reinforced sand, while static plant will be "skidded" towed or craned off.

Work on the project begins some eight years after it was first proposed. It was shelved by Alan in 1975, when his cost was put at £100m and the original Scandinavian partners dropped out because of the world economic recession.

Alan will have a 40 per cent stake in the project instead of the 70 per cent it had previously.

Wimpey starts site work for £280m Irish smelter

By John Huxley

Construction of a new £280m alumina extraction project by George Wimpey's plant division at Aughinish Island, in the Shannon estuary, is expected to begin today.

Wimpey has a £5m contract for site preparation of the project, which was given the go-ahead last November by Alcan Aluminium in partnership with Royal Dutch/Shell's Billiton subsidiary and Atlantic Richfield's Aramco subsidiary.

Planning of the work began some weeks ago, and last Thursday the London tug, the Sun Essex, left Tilbury towing a flat-top pontoon piled high with heavy plant and equipment worth more than £1m for the island site near Limerick.

Included in its cargo were a 175-ton face shovel, four 331-ton dump trucks, a 361-ton mobile crane, a fork-lift truck, a compaction roller and two lighting towers with 40ft masts.

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French steel exports maintained

Paris, Aug 8.—French steel exports to countries outside the EEC remain steady and show signs of continuing the recovery started earlier this year, industry sources reported today.

However, sales on the French AEC markets are still sluggish and prospects not very favourable, mainly because of imports from non-EEC countries like Sweden, Australia and Spain, the sources say.

The overall recovery in the French steel market is confirmed by latest figures showing July crude production at 1.77 million tonnes, 7.2 per cent above the figure for a year ago.

Oil imports during the first six months of this year declined 1.2 per cent to 57.2 million tonnes compared with those of the same period in 1977, according to customs figures published by Bulletin de l'Industrie Pétrolière.

North-west puts case for siting of Inmos plant

By R. W. Shakespeare

The North-west has made a strong bid to secure the proposed government investment of up to £50m in the new Anglo-American company, Inmos, which is being formed to design and manufacture advanced integrated circuits.

In a letter to the Prime Minister, Councillor Arnold Tweedale, chairman of the North West Industrial Development Association, says the 4,000 jobs visualised would not only be a major boost to an industrial sector where employment is steadily declining but would also be the clearest possible demonstration of the Government's intention to regenerate the region's industry.

Councillor Tweedale reminds the Prime Minister that the North-west has a well-proven pedigree in the electronics industry.

The world's first computer was designed in Manchester—there is a reservoir of experienced and talented labour—more than 20,000 workers being employed in the production of radio and electronic components.

It is the clearest possible demonstration of the Government's intention to regenerate the region's industry.

But more than this, the Development Association bases its claim to the new project on its increasing concern about the deterioration of the North-west's economy.

Councillor Tweedale says: "Relatively low investment by both Government and industry is a growing share of national unemployment and a disproportionately low share of the country's unfilled vacancies (the North-west has the highest unemployment/vacancy ratio in Britain) are some of the features of this deterioration."

BANK FIGURES

The following are the figures for eligible liabilities and reserve assets ratios of United Kingdom banks released by the Bank of England today:

eligible assets of banks released today:		liabilities and ratios of United Kingdom Bank	reserve assets of Bank
At end of month	Eligible liabilities £m	Price over 3 months at annual rate %	Asset ratio
1977			
June	36,279	+15.7	14.0
July	37,094	+14.6	14.0
Aug	37,691	+22.5	14.5
Sept	38,793	+30.8	14.5
Oct	38,705	+31.4	14.5
Nov	44,196	+29.6	15.1
Dec	40,833	+29.9	14.8
1978			
Jan	41,632	+20.9	14.5
Feb	42,224	+21.6	14.0
March	42,575	+18.2	14.1
April	43,989	+23.5	13.9
May	44,503	+23.4	13.5
June	44,369	+18.1	13.8
July	45,037	+11.0	13.3

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Product liability and services

From Mr Thomas Hearn

Sir, Mr Michael Grylls' article (August 1) on the probable introduction of absolute product liability to this country has serious implications for those who provide services, as well as for those who manufacture goods.

For example, it has always been the policy of the Housing Trust for which I work to construct and maintain its property to the best of its ability, but not to accept liability for the consequences of defects unless there has been negligence in failing to observe or to remedy them.

We do not consider it to be our responsibility to insure whatever contents our tenants happen to keep in their homes against every possible misfortune that may affect them.

However, tenants are already inclined to believe that the landlord should be responsible for the cost of making good damage to doors caused by burglars, or to ceilings caused by the occupants of the flat overhead allowing the bath to overflow.

If product liability, as envisaged by Mr Grylls, is introduced, the landlord would, presumably, be held liable, not only for those costs, but also for the value of the goods which the burglars took and the carpets damaged by the bath water, on the grounds that there was an implied warranty that the door was secure and the ceiling watertight, and that, in any

event, the landlord is better able than his tenant to insure and cover the cost of doing so.

Yours faithfully,
THOMAS HEARN,
307 Waterloo Road,
LONDON SE1 8XW,
August 4.

From Mr Walter Harris

Sir, Mr Michael Grylls' article (August 1) on product liability was interesting on counts subtle than those immediately apparent in the first place.

In this country, the product and liability field, but money—Not only in the case of the psychiatrist who hit his head on the bottom of the swimming-pool—and no doubt entered his profession after the event—but in thousands of others over the past few years, they have put the verdict where the money is.

No matter how irresponsible the individual, and no matter how innocent the manufacturer, the manufacturer and his insurance company have the money, and must therefore vouchsafe it for the benefit of the injured or dead, without practical limit.

In this country, that could not happen so long as the courts remain free. I am not entirely sanguine that such freedom will remain eternally inviolate, for the next thing that Mr Grylls mentions is the possibility that a manufacturer

could be held liable for injury caused by one product, even if the product could not have been defective in the scientific and technical development at the time put into circulation.

This ludicrous EEC, however, only can the sit recently coming the House of Commons during in retroactive effect, by so doing, has inevitably taken away the authority to strict definition.

Furthermore we are with ill-conceived, which dictates criteria, there being a sufficient expert body, such criteria, and fool issues edicts that the enforced. All he is plishing by so doing is their undermining of I ority.

Some of us are working on ways and establish the criteria the product and public fields; whether we sin fail, the fact remains, in this country, it is to defend not to stand but the industry and justice of our Yours faithfully,

WALTER HARRIS,
Efficient Investment Ltd.,
8-12 Ricketts Street,
Fulham,
London SW6,
August 1.

Telephone service in Oxford

From Mrs N. E. W. Huxter

Sir, I would like to support Mr Beckerman (August 3) in his complaints about the Post Office service in Oxford—particularly the telephone.

We have recently had a French boy staying with us who wished to telephone his family near Paris. Over two days we tried 20 times to be put through to the international operator with no success. (The local operator did tell us that if we lived in Abingdon, Witney, or the Randolph Hotel, Oxford,

direct dialling would be possible).

The next day we went to stay in Cambridge and our guest was able to speak to his family within one minute of dialling their number. He could not understand why this should be so easy in Cambridge and impossible in Oxford. Nor can we.

Yours faithfully,
N. E. W. HUXTER,
Heron Wood,
Boars Hill,
Oxford,
August 3.

Aid schemes for the poorer countries

From Professor H. W. Singer

Sir, In your article on Britain's debt cancellation (August 1), you rightly explain that such cancellation (or "retrospective terms adjustment") amounts to the untied aid; and that when their aid (as well as Britain's) is their aid this may result in a loss of export orders to this country.

This effect would obviously be removed if the debt cancellation became universal—assuming that the United Kingdom share of the cancelled debts is

more or less the same as the United Kingdom share in official development assistance.

However, what your observation really should remind us of is the absurdity of tied aid. The value of aid to the poorer countries could be increased at a stroke by some 20 to 25 per cent without any loss of aid donors; what each of them loses on the swings of tying his own aid he would gain back on the roundabouts of their aid.

It is a terrible reflection on the effectiveness of O.D.C. Committee (D.A.C.) the simple general a among donors should have been reached.

It is too much to the sensible act of return terms adjustment will followed by this long improvement? Yours sincerely,
H. W. SINGER,
18 The Vale,
Ovingdean,
Brighton, BN2 7JL.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

A tight squeeze into the 'corset'

anking system may tug and pull until the face but it is clearly going to enormous difficulty after the latest liability figures in fitting itself into Government's 'corset' by the mid-target date. While the underlying increase in bank lending in July alien quite sharply from the high seen in May and June, loan demands to be buoyant enough to make life it for the banks. The recent easing of market tightness may offer the banks more flexibility in adjusting the up of their balance sheets now, but it remains that even this scope is so long as close to £900m of special remain due for recall during the year.

problem is, of course, that much more for the clearing banks than the the banking sector. Quite apart from turn of borrowers to their principal s at the first sign that the supply of might be restricted, it looks as if the at the clearing's base rates have been ow relative to other market rates y has also increased their share of nding. In that respect, there is little ve, at least in theory, for the clearing s to follow any reduction in MLR.

of course, assumes that a reduction remains a possibility, and the mar- arly had second thoughts about this y. But given that seasonal adjust- er should keep the rise in sterling uly to around 1 per cent—which keep the annualized rate of growth in quarter of the financial year be- 10 per cent—there seems no reason scared for the moment.

Premium the move

ollar premium bears who thought n was just around the corner at the ng of the year have suffered a series acks. After dipping to an effective around 25 per cent in January the n climbed steadily and held in a around 50 per cent before breaking higher last week. The upward pres- eem mainly to reflect private and oual investor interest in overseas arkets, in particular Hongkong and reet.

s, the latter which has pushed the e rate up to 53.9 per cent by yes- compared with only 48 per cent at nning of last week before Wall ally took off.

eeling remains, in spite of sugges- at the enthusiasm for Wall Street e been overdone, that there is little e a reduction in the next few months, ough some reaction to sterling's cur- strength is still central to many e forecasts for the latter part of the year.

has been a steady flow of premium y being made available by profit- ills over the past couple of months, re are signs that this flow is now g to dry up, so a continuing high demand is now likely to push the n up unchecked.

Gins and the War

's decision to follow Imperial Group p a packet increase on most of its e comes as cheering news to the arkets, where, despite its recent ging trading statement, some doubts n felt as to whether Imps might eified in making a full 10 per cent e in the distribution this year. The has chiefly centred around the e of BAT Industries' entry into the e cigarette-market at a time when hare of the market had still not d from its previous decline.

ous promotion and big initial price ts at one point gave BAT market e between 8 and 10 per cent, al- ough it attaches little importance to e initial push is over and gives e next phase of consolidation.

ear, though, has been that BAT's

immense muscle would lead to a lengthy price war in which the volume and margins of other manufacturers would be savaged. The ability of Imps and Gallaher to contemplate a 2p price rise now suggests that price weakness may not be quite so protracted as the markets have feared. BAT's own prices have been rising steadily. Having been as low as 43p for a packet of State Express at one time, latest stocks are intended to sell at around 53p.

This development must surely have been encouraged by Imps' refusal to try to fight BAT on price. The philosophy seems to have been to hold price, restrain promotional expenditure and let volume take the strain in the short-term. Provided prices can be held, Imps may then be able to counter attack once BAT gets over its first aggressive foray. In the tobacco industry profits are highly sensitive to marginal volume, but the lower level of promotion is an offsetting factor and the new price increase provides some explanation why Imps last month forecast a strong second half and an increase in attributable profits from last year's level.

It is too early yet to judge whether the latest price changes indicate that the price war will benefit simply continue from a higher profit plateau, but if the price rises can hold it can only buttress the case of those who think Imps' prospective 11 per cent yield at 85p is excessive.

Automotive Products The climate deteriorates

Having enjoyed two years of booming profits as a result of rising vehicle production and exceptional replacement demand, market trends are now beginning to look distinctly less favourable for British component makers. After profits growth of 75 per cent followed by 52 per cent in its last two financial years, Automotive Products has seen the pace slow to 17.8 per cent to provide interim profits of £7.4m pre-tax.

AP's shares having strongly outperformed the rest of the sector this year climbed 13p to 90p yesterday on the board's report that recent 'softness' in the United Kingdom parts market had been caused by wholesale

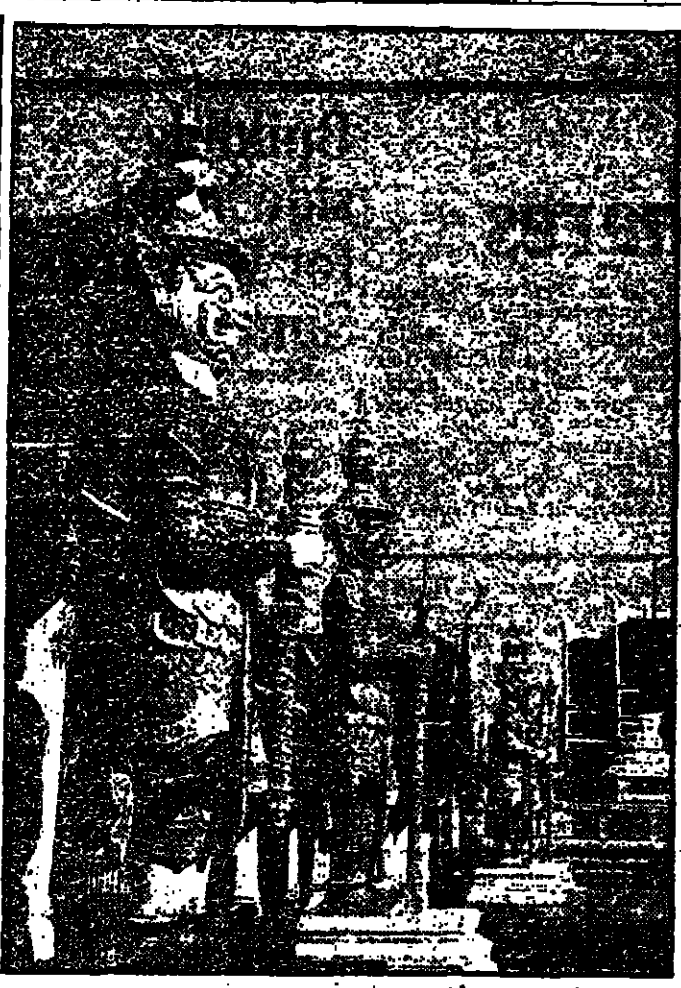


Mr. J. T. Paaks, chief executive of Automotive Products.

overstocking, which has since been corrected. Moreover, fears about toughening conditions in the United Kingdom may be further allayed by the group's increasing overseas presence, now that it is firmly established as a second-source supplier to European markets. The only problem is whether further sterling strength will undermine the impetus as AP increases its attack on what are currently declining German and French markets.

For the full-year AP's pace could slow to something under 14 per cent for pre-tax profits of less than £15.5m, but, as a result of the preference scrip earlier this year, improvement at the earnings level could be negligible. Since going ex-scrip the shares have remained remarkably firm and a prospective p/e of perhaps 8; and yield of under 2.5 per cent put them at a significant premium over the rest of the sector.

Despite the group's improved financial strength and its potentially lucrative forays into Europe, the shares must be vulnerable being amongst the most expensive in a sector over which clouds are gathering.



An avenue of demons at the Temple of the Emerald Buddha in Bangkok, one of the buildings that is sinking.

Tunnellers teach Japan a lesson

When Bangkok was called the 'Voice of the Orient' canals carried the city's traffic. Today, with most of the canals gone, Bangkok has some of the worst road traffic chaos in the world, but it still shares a problem with the famous city on the Adriatic—it is sinking. No much, of course: The temple of the Emerald Buddha and the Grand Palace have gone down three millimetres in the past six months and the former Parliament House eight millimetres in eight months.

Bangkok is sinking for much the same reason as Venice—too much fresh water is being pumped from deep wells for the city's needs, causing lower layers of clay to contract. To make use of alternative sources and halt subsidence a huge new supply system costing about £200m is being built.

Working away quietly in these exotic surroundings is a group of about 50 British and Irish expatriates, many of whom saw service on London's Victoria Line and the new Blackwall Tunnel, when they were being built. They are employed by a small Birmingham company, Sheridan Contractors, which won a modest £5.5m contract for part of the tunnelling to carry water from Bangkok's Chao Phraya River.

The expatriates' experience seems to have stood them in good stead. They are doing something which seldom, if ever, seems to happen elsewhere these days—leaving the Japanese standing.

Two Japanese tunnelling com-

panies on the project, which began work in January, 1977, have been constantly behind schedule, sometimes by as much as 13 months. The British company, which began work five months after the Japanese, has kept ahead of schedule throughout and expects to maintain that position until the job is finished next year.

It is not an easy task. In Bangkok the tunnels are being driven under the city streets and one short section runs under the river itself.

The Japanese have watched with some perplexity as the British tunnellers have sped ahead and they have begun to copy British methods. When the Japanese encountered trouble with the alignment of their tunnels they noticed that the British company was using a laser beam for its own calculations. Now they are doing likewise.

When they saw how fast the British 'sank' working shafts, they abandoned their own traditional methods and did it the British way.

Mr. Dick Walters, a Briton who is project manager for the American supervising engineers, says that the British have gone ahead faster than the Japanese because they meet problems with off-the-cuff decisions.

"That is the basis of all civil engineering," he said. "The Japanese are committee people. If they find a problem in a tunnel everything stops while a committee decides what to do."

The local management of the British company praise the British-designed equipment and the British expertise upon which they have been able to call. But the chief thing giving the company such success is probably far more prosaic: it is money. The tunnellers' basic pay is £52 a day, but with bonuses they sometimes take home as much as £500 a week.

Neil Kelly

What the Americans are doing about the dollar

The latest slide in the value of the American dollar has once again produced suggestions in some overseas quarters and in the foreign exchange markets that the United States authorities are pursuing a policy of 'benign neglect'.

Administration officials are furious about this, however. They claim that the dollar's troubles are being exaggerated and they argue that America is operating a comprehensive set of economic policies.

At the same time the recent bout of currency instability has again revived discussions whether steps can be taken in the international monetary arena to produce a less volatile exchange rate system. It has been widely reported that the American government has a negative approach to this and is opposing, for example, efforts to develop a European currency zone.

Improvement seems to have been overlooked by some commentators. The trade deficit has fallen markedly month by month since February.

In the second month of this year the United States had a record deficit of \$4,517.5m, but the April deficit was down to \$2,861.2m and the June deficit to \$1,597m—almost a third of the record February total.

Administration officials are confident of continued steady progress on the balance of payments front. They believe that the devaluation of the dollar will reduce import growth and boost export sales, while the

improving the balance of payments and domestic inflation are much more likely to aid the dollar than purely monetary solutions. At the same time they claim that they have given much thought to ways in which the international monetary system can be strengthened.

They suggest that 'capital controls' are a 'technical impossibility'. Officials accept the fact that, while the prime reserve currency cannot 'help' to 'always be the best investment medium', the United States has a special responsibility to try to stabilize its currency's value.

If we all had zero inflation and equal rates of growth, then we might be able to work a fixed rate system, but right now there is no alternative to flexible exchange rates," said one Fed official, outlining part of the dilemma.

US officials strongly reject assertions that they are pursuing a policy of 'benign neglect' towards their currency

Frank Vogl reports from Washington

new stimulative policies in Japan and West Germany will expand export market opportunities.

They also believe that the slowing rate of growth of the American economy in the next 12 months will lead to the dampening of demand for imports.

To strengthen these trends the Carter Administration is studying means of boosting exports through enlarged Export-Import Bank financing and through special promotional programmes, while at the same time using selective protectionist measures as a disincentive to imports. The steel import trigger price programme is a case in point.

But whatever the good news on the payments front, it seems to have been largely overshadowed as far as the currency markets are concerned, by the deteriorating American inflation position. Here, too, Administration officials argue that they are doing all that can be done to prevent the dollar from depreciating.

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It is pointed out that public spending is being cut and that the White House anti-inflation programme is being strengthened. Officials note that food prices appear at long last to be declining.

Moreover, 'credit' policies have been tightened in recent months and there is some confidence at the Federal Reserve Board that the high American interest rates will start attracting capital flows before long.

The Carter Administration and the Fed have been doing much more to try to stabilize the dollar than was evident in the last few months of 1977. So the charge of 'benign neglect' no longer seems valid, although much more could still be done on the energy and inflation fronts.

The Treasury and the Fed assert that policies directed to

Furthermore, the United States is now supporting a modest new allocation of special drawing rights (SDRs) and a higher rate of interest for the SDR, and it would have a substantial rise in IMF member quotas and some redistribution of fund shares.

Thus, overall, the United States can today claim to have a broad set of currency policies and to be displaying much concern about its currency.

Moreover, Administration is confident that the fundamental economic factors governing exchange rates will assert themselves and produce more stable exchange market conditions before long.

Time alone will tell whether such confidence is justified but the policies that have been developed and the concern now evident are themselves a marked improvement on the situation that existed in 1977.

Britain's cutlery industry on a knife's edge

Derek Harris

Mr Michael Meacher, Under Secretary of State for Trade, was a remark that went to the heart of the row which has been bedeviling the cutlery industry for years and has now come to a head in what has all the signs of being a final battle for survival.

Some manufacturers have been importing large amounts of Far East stainless cutlery, mainly from South Korea. Some have also been importing stainless blanks, processing them and plating in Britain and adding the prestige 'Made in Sheffield' stamp.

Even the most vociferous campaigner against this trade, Mr John Price, chairman of Arthur Price of Birmingham, imports a small amount of Far East stainless finished goods, in his case in the cheapest ranges so that the company can offer a complete range of cutlery.

Disagreement on these issues led to the formation earlier this year of the Federation of British Cutlery Manufacturers as a new body to represent the several organizations which represent the industry's interests.

Mr Price has been the architect of the federation which now claims more than 40 members from the 140 manufacturing units in this country, of which about 100 are in the Sheffield area.

At its peak the industry

had 800 manufacturing units employing some 50,000 people. Now there are about 10,000 jobs in cutlery, about 6,000 of them in Sheffield.

The federation wants to raise import barriers progressively until only the cheapest form of stainless steel cutlery, such as that used in mass catering, would be allowed in. Import penetration would be down to 25 per cent in five years on this calculation.

Mr Price believed this reduction, to be held for a further seven years, would give the industry a chance to attract the investment necessary to regenerate itself. He says: "It is not a question of being protectionist: it is simply a matter of buying time for a chance of survival."

The federation reserves its most bitter attack for the growing trade in cutlery blanks made in the Far East. According to *Business Monitor* returns, import penetration of the blanks and parts sector of the United Kingdom market had reached 10.6 per cent in 1974, but rose to 18.7 per cent in 1976. In the first nine months of last year the penetration figure went up further to just over 20 per cent.

Over the same period penetration of the finished stainless cutlery sector was nearly 87 per cent. Some industry estimates put this at more than 90 per cent. Import penetration of the total blank cutlery market was put at 54 per cent.

The federation complains of a "disturbing and growing" tendency of some UK manufacturers to take advantage of a loophole in branding regulations affecting imports.

If an imported article is branded with a name or trademark the country of origin has to be shown on products and packaging. But if a manufacturing process in Britain makes what is described as a "substantial change" to that article then the product may be stamped as British or in cutlery's case Sheffield made.

The long-established Cutlery and Silverware Association, which is based in Sheffield, takes a different stand on these issues. It has urged a 50 per cent cut by volume in imports of stainless cutlery. The association has argued that the United Kingdom must expect to take a portion of Third World products but that imports should be controlled sufficiently to leave British makers a

worthwhile market there. The association has been pressing for some years for global import quotas.

The association's president is Mr Brian Viner, a director of Viners of Sheffield, but it is the managing director of Viners, Mr Leslie Glanville, who has made a spirited defence of mixture of imports and United Kingdom manufacture.

Protectionism is a self-defeating policy, he says, but Viners believe in orderly marketing which could require a degree of control of imports for specific periods.

Some 60 per cent of the value of goods sold by Viners' United Kingdom company—it has manufacturing as well as trading companies abroad—is manufactured in Sheffield. Mr Glanville points out. But Viners has a 20 per cent share of the imports into the United Kingdom.

Mr Glanville maintains that rationalization of manufacture in a multinational operation such as that practised by Viners has meant both import and export of the piege parts known as blanks.

The internal dissension in the cutlery industry has plainly tried the patience of Mr Meacher and his advisers at the Department of Trade as they searched for a concerted industry view. If the EEC commission is to be persuaded of the need to bring in protective measures against cutlery imports throughout the EEC the Government needs a compelling case, especially as both France and Italy appear to be cool towards the idea of overall EEC protection.

Sheffield City Council has at last got the main factions in the industry to sit down at the same bargaining table with the Government. It has also called a meeting of the industry's leaders for August 24 to try to thrash out the problem of the plated blanks.

But much obviously hangs on facts about the industry, its prospects and investment needs, which should be turned up by the survey now being conducted by the Sheffield-based Cutlery and Allied Trades Research Association.

The report, due to go to the Government by the beginning of next month, will be the basis for a Whitehall decision on import protection measures and on possible extra-aid under the 1972 Industry Act.

Business Diary: Tyresomeness • NCC and the Braunies



I've got a bet with my bank manager that the inflation rate will be above 10 per cent again one month after the general election, whatever the result.

the tyre company, has an advertisement which television after from the Hongkong post that it portrayed an colony's products as and unreliable.

of the advertisement a motorist claiming he need 'Michelin' tyres he had a relative who ges 'cheap' Hongkong As the camera panned screech of brakes was indicating, the govern- ble, that the poor man, la crash.

the advertising man- Powys told Business yesterday that the com- d apologized for the ment, which means the passed the scrutiny of ependent Broadcasting y. He emphasized that s over crash and certainly tion to suggest that g tyres were inferior, just as well, because, government has since out, Hongkong does not res.

people in the advertise- bish was meant to be ured, were caricatures, who spoke the worst ed of was a know-all, e" Powys says.

authorities are that the reference will eard again on television reported to be resentful sin's suggestion that "it

is beyond argument that over the last decade or two Hongkong has become a by-word in Britain for the manufacture of inexpensive articles undercutting the prices of European makes."

The National Consumer Council's bid to beef up British consumer representation in Brussels has, I can reveal, made a good start with the recruitment of a first chairman for the newly constituted steering committee.

It is shortly to be announced that John Braun, himself a former head of the consumer protection division in Brussels, is taking on the job.

Originally, it was a condition of several independent con-

discussions on unfair competition.

Braun can be expected to devote both time and energy to ensuring that the new steering committee packs clout in Brussels. He will be necessarily champion a distinctively British viewpoint.

He makes no secret of the fact that he deprecates the way British ministers have tackled consumer issues, as others in Brussels, as issues for national triumph or defeat.

Business people who fly regularly between London and Glasgow or Edinburgh ought to have a less frustrating time of it as a result of British Caledonian's plan to slice 40 per cent off of the normal single fare from November 1, making it £21 instead of £35.

The theory is that the cheap rates, which will operate only on services during the middle of the day, will draw away from the early morning and evening flights—so popular with the business community—those passengers who do not have to be in a certain place in a certain time—the holidaymakers and the "visiting friends and relatives" traffic.

BCal has, in fact, been breaking its heart over the fact that it has had to turn away business people from the early morning and late evening flights.

Over at British Airways, there is never any shortage of seats

to Glasgow and Edinburgh, because if one aircraft on the shuttle run fills up the state airline simply wheels out another.

How would it, *Business Diary* inquired, react to BCal's enter- prise? "We shall not be opposing it," they said, "but we would point out that we already have a standby fare at weekends offering 45 per cent off to give a single fare of £18.50."

As BCal's proposal, if approved by the Civil Aviation Authority, will cost £2.50 more, it seems to be a small one in the eye for private enterprise.

Jose de Letona, the new head of the London office of the Spanish National Tourist Office, will find plenty to keep him busy.

Quite apart from the aftermath of the Los Alcaques camping site tragedy which will concern all tourist officials for some time, Letona will face all the benefits (and tribulations) of having a bumper year.

An estimated 3.5 million Britons are expected to spend their holidays in Spain this year—close to the record of 3.9 million chalked up in the pre-crisis year of 1973. This naturally leads to some concern as far as facilities are concerned.

Already there has been some acrimonious exchanges of correspondence between tour operator representatives and

Spanish tourist officials about possible overbooking of hotels (with the tourist office maintaining that, if overbooking did occur it was frequently the tour operator's fault).

The debate on methods of payment and contracts between tour operators and hoteliers is likely to continue (in private if not in public) at the Association of British Travel Agents annual convention in November.

For this year's venue is the Palacio de Congressos in Torremolinos and while the host is the private enterprise Costa del Sol Tourist Promotion Board—the national office, including its new London director, will inevitably contribute.

Looking even further afield, Letona, who will also be tourism counsellor to the Spanish Embassy in London, is expected to play a big part in increasing out of season tourism.

He comes to London after a spell advising the Turks on tourism and hotel development.

Glass houses: There was a case-umpance recently for a chap who replied to people who said him letters signed illegitimately by cutting out the signature and pasting it on to the envelope before adding the address. He has now received a letter whose envelope carries a "Yours faithfully" of his, where his own name should be.

Ross Davies

62 2	81 1	Leeds North	..	42 3	..	Leeds North	..	1002 2007	month	2nd Widow: day of death, day valued
121 6	121 6	Retirement	..	121 6	..	1002 2007	month	2nd Widow: day of death, day valued	monthly.	

Industrial
Production Index 201.39 12.00%

Mar War Loan 214 21.00%

A record of The Times Industrial &
Indices is given below. —

	High	Low
All-time	222.50 174.00 77.5	50.75 12.21
1910-1914	222.50 108.00 77.5	184.25 60.00
1915-1919	222.50 174.00 77.5	131.25 42.00
1920-1924	222.50 174.00 77.5	113.75 37.00
1925-1929	222.50 174.00 77.5	113.75 37.00
1930-1934	222.50 174.00 77.5	113.75 37.00
1935-1939	222.50 174.00 77.5	113.75 37.00
1940-1944	222.50 174.00 77.5	113.75 37.00
1945-1949	222.50 174.00 77.5	113.75 37.00
1950-1954	222.50 174.00 77.5	113.75 37.00
1955-1959	222.50 174.00 77.5	113.75 37.00
1960-1964	222.50 174.00 77.5	113.75 37.00
1965-1969	222.50 174.00 77.5	113.75 37.00
1970-1974	222.50 174.00 77.5	113.75 37.00
1975-1979	222.50 174.00 77.5	113.75 37.00
1980-1984	222.50 174.00 77.5	113.75 37.00
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1995-1999	222.50 174.00 77.5	113.75 37.00
2000-2004	222.50 174.00 77.5	113.75 37.00
2005-2009	222.50 174.00 77.5	113.75 37.00
2010-2014	222.50 174.00 77.5	113.75 37.00
2015-2019	222.50 174.00 77.5	113.75 37.00
2020-2024	222.50 174.00 77.5	113.75 37.00
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2090-2094	222.50 174.00 77.5	113.75 37.00
2095-2099	222.50 174.00 77.5	113.75 37.00
2100-2104	222.50 174.00 77.5	113.75 37.00
2105-2109	222.50 174.00 77.5	113.75 37.00
2110-2114	222.50 174.00 77.5	113.75 37.00
2115-2119	222.50 174.00 77.5	113.75 37.00
2120-2124	222.50 174.00 77.5	113.75 37.00
2125-2129	222.50 174.00 77.5	113.75 37.00
2130-2134	222.50 174.00 77.5	113.75 37.00
2135-2139	222.50 174.00 77.5	113.75 37.00
2140-2144	222.50 174.00 77.5	113.75 37.00
2145-2149	222.50 174.00 77.5	113.75 37.00
2150-2154	222.50 174.00 77.5	113.75 37.00
2155-2159	222.50 174.00 77.5	113.75 37.00
2160-2164	222.50 174.00 77.5	113.75 37.00
2165-2169	222.50 174.00 77.5	113.75 37.00
2170-2174	222.50 174.00 77.5	113.75 37.00
2175-2179	222.50 174.00 77.5	113.75 37.00
2180-2184	222.50 174.00 77.5	113.75 37.00
2185-2189	222.50 174.00 77.5	113.75 37.00
2190-2194	222.50 174.00 77.5	113.75 37.00
2195-2199	222.50 174.00 77.5	113.75 37.00
2200-2204	222.50 174.00 77.5	113.75 37.00
2205-2209	222.50 174.00 77.5	113.75 37.00
2210-2214	222.50 174.00 77.5	113.75 37.00
2215-2219	222.50 174.00 77.5	113.75 37.00
2220-2224	222.50 174.00 77.5	113.75 37.00
2225-2229	222.50 174.00 77.5	113.75 37.00
2230-2234	222.50 174.00 77.5	113.75 37.00
2235-2239	222.50 174.00 77.5	113.75 37.00
2240-2244	222.50 174.00 77.5	113.75 37.00
2245-2249	222.50 174.00 77.5	113.75 37.00
2250-2254		

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Administrator

Steiner

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Steiner Products Limited, are looking for a personable Receptionist/Administrator to take charge of the Reception at their new Mayfair Salon.

Applicants should be in their early 20s preferably with some reception/administrative experience, and be free to attend the Company's training course for one week at the beginning of September.

You will be responsible for general reception work including bookings and all the administrative work associated with the salon.

Salary is negotiable according to experience with many benefits including free hair-dressing.

For further information please telephone:

Chief Executive
Steiner Products Ltd.
57/65 The Broadway
Stammore,
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(continued on p. 10)

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...ance tours for wine lovers

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